



# This Totally Bites!

*Ruth Ames*

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**This Totally Bites!** Ruth Ames

Poison Apple Books: Thrilling. Bone-chilling. These books have bite!

Twelve-year-old Emma-Rose Paley has always felt different from her bubbly, outgoing parents. Unlike them, Emma-Rose has pale skin and jet-black hair, is quiet and moody, and prefers gray weather to sunshine. She also hates the taste of garlic, has very sharp incisors, and loves rare burgers. When Emma-Rose uncovers a dark family secret, she has a sudden revelation. Could Emma-Rose be a real, live vampire?

## This Totally Bites! Details

Date : Published July 1st 2011 by Scholastic (first published 2010)

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Author : Ruth Ames

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# **From Reader Review This Totally Bites! for online ebook**

## **Brittany says**

Emma Rose's aunt is visiting right before Halloween for a Creatures of the Night exhibit her mom is hosting. Right around this time Emma Rose is assigned a genealogy assignment and after some odd occurrences paired with her research, Emma Rose is now convinced she is a...vampire.

This book was okay, nothing particularly special in my opinion. I think this story could have been cute and sassy and engaging; however, I was irritated that two best friends getting into a huge fight is used as a plot device (where they are both super immature). Along with the fact that her having a crush on a boy is another huge plot device, so this brought the book down for me.

I do know that I am not the target audience for this book, I just wish books for our youth would be based more on friendship and loyalty versus petty fights and attracting a boys attention. I do think this was a cute book, and I think my niece will really like it, I just wished it showcased things slightly differently.

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## **Ziying says**

Emma-rose was always "different" than her parents. She feels left out in the family and has certain features that both her parent don't have. When her great-aunt Margo comes she starts feeling sort of suspicious of her. Henry her friend will go and find out the secret about Margo. On the way she still has some questions that needs to be answered.

I've always been a fan of the poison apple and rotten apple books. The reason I got this book was because I went to visit a friend one day and I saw this book on her table so I ask if I could read some of it. The minute I've read it I wanted to read it more. After that I decided to read it one more time.

The reason I've finished this is because there were a lot of questions appearing in my head like, is her aunt actually a vampire? The book had a mystery to it so I couldn't help but finished the book.

Betty will enjoy this book because the characters in this book aren't just humans but vampires. I think she likes things that have vampires in it.

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## **Kimberly Pirir says**

I thought this book was good. This book basicly talks about a girl named Emma-Rose Paley who feels like she doesnt belong with her family. She feels like she is different from her parents because she looks and acts different from them. What she doesnt know is that her family has a dark secret that she doesnt find out until one of her aunts come to visit and tells her all about it. Now she understands why she is different from them. When you are reading this book, at first it seems like your not going to like it... but when you keep reading, you really get into it and you try to find what the dark secret is, and why it affects her and her social life. You

wouldnt want to put the book down until you find that dark secret that everyone is hiding from her.

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### **Candide says**

I really enjoyed reading this book! It was great. I'm glad that Ruth Ames - the author - made sure that there were 'real' vampires, but I'm still pretty sad that she didn't turn Emma-Rose into one. I also loved the part where Emma-Rose and Henry were in the library, it was.....I dunno.....maybe a little romantic?????

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### **Kelly says**

This is the last of the Poison Apple books that my niece checked out from the library and I \*ahem\* stole from her to read. Cute with the message that things (and people) aren't always as they seem, it's a quick read with a funky main character. My niece pointed out within the first few pages that the 12 year old main character dresses the same way I do. I don't know if I should be flattered that she noticed or disturbed that I dress like a tween.

Anyway. These books are written to be very accessible to the middle grade readers. I like that they celebrate diversity of self (the main characters usually have offbeat hobbies and aren't afraid to enjoy being different) and that without fail they sneak the point home that you shouldn't judge someone until you know all the facts.

Fast and fun, these books will appeal to younger readers who enjoy a touch of the supernatural without the scare factor.

-Kelly @ Reading the Paranormal

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### **Skye says**

The book is great but the twist wasn't the best.

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### **Alisha says**

This totally Bites, written by Ruth Ames. This Poison Apple Book is the second in the series. This book follows young Emma-Rosa as she discovers her family heritage and why it is she is so different from her fun loving parents. She doesn't want to wear pastels, like her mother wants her to. Emma-Rose is more comfortable in her dark colored cloths and her moody attitude. As always, the Poison Apple series has a great way of keeping the reader hooked on the story and wanting more. This story is perfect for children ages 8 to 12 who prefer a little darkness in their reading.

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## Monster says

Emma-Rose Paley is dark-haired, navy-eyed, pale-skinned and just saw her great-aunt turn into a bat. Now, on top of the upcoming school Halloween Dance (which her friend Gabby has pushed her to help plan), and her parents working hard on a major gala for the museum, Emma-Rose wonders if she could be a vampire too.

This *Totally Bites!* is an ultramodern middle-grade scary tale that brings the popularity of the paranormal into a kid-friendly book. Emma-Rose faces realistic kid-sized problems, some of which are even scarier than possibly being a vampire. Cell phones and the internet factor in a lot, which is good because many times such things are ignored by writers, but when they are missing it's noticed by readers.

While this book does have the potential to be a little too scary for sensitive kids (my daughter insisted on sleeping with a bulb of garlic on her table after we read the scene where Aunt Margo turns into a bat) it doesn't touch on any truly uncomfortable situations (for kids or parents). For kids who are trying to edge in on their parents' love of urban fantasy or paranormal romance, or who just love *Buffy* reruns, this is book, part of the *Poison Apple* series, is perfect. Recommended for public collections.

Contains: creepiness

Reviewed by: Michele Lee

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## Princess Marie says

This book is about Emma-Rose Paley. She feels different from her parents.

Like, she loves dark and cold cloudy days while her parents prefer bright and sunny days.

This book will tell how Emma-Rose Paley found out about her Aunt and the history of their Family and how this will affect of her way of living things.

Anyhow, first you may think this book is a waste of time but if you keep reading it you will be taken "in" and you'll feel excitement of what's gonna happen next.

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## Ashley Ehlers says

Was originally posted on Paranormal Sisters: <http://paranormalsisters.blogspot.com...>

Though every story in the *Poison Apple* series is different and follows different characters, I'm really sad I didn't enjoy this one as much as I did the first one. This was kind of a let down, even though the story went the way a young person would think if they found out their great aunt was a vampire.

Mainly the book was about Emma-Rose speculating that she's a vampire because she's just like her great aunt, who is a vampire. One night Emma-Rose saw her great aunt changing back into her human form after she flies through her bedroom window as a bat. From there Emma-Rose looked into what vampires were, she didn't need any other evidence. She knew without a doubt her great aunt was a vampire and I was sad that was the only vampire scene we got for most of the book. The story pretty much made it feel like it could have been one of her nightmares and that made me feel meh towards the story.

Overall *This Totally Bites!* was just okay. I wasn't blown away like I was for the *The Dead End* like I thought I would be before I even picked up this book. I just wish the vampire aspect was stronger or if

maybe at the end there would have been a deeper meaning for all of this.

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### **Rosa says**

This book was way less creepy than the first book in the series. Emma Rose thinks she might be a vampire when her Great Aunt visits from Transylvania (who clearly is a vampire) and Emma Rose sees the similarities between them. At the same time she is fighting with her best friend Gabby, which is making her sad. But her belief that she may be a vampire is giving her a ton of confidence. She's making new friends, in charge of decorating for the dance and talking to the boy she likes.

I really liked this book. I love any book where you get to see a character come out of her shell. I also finally figured out that these books don't include the same characters or seem to really be connected other than being about paranormal characters.

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### **Isabella says**

Well, I was really disappointed that Emma Rose didn't turn out to be a vampire because it would have made the book much more interesting. I loved the plot and the idea of the story though.

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### **Kenzie A says**

This book is about this twelve year old girl named Emma Rose who is trying to find a mystery about her family. Emma Rose's Great Aunt Margo comes to visit her family, Emma Rose finds something weird about her great aunt Margo. Emma Rose went to bed one night and something bang on her wall. She got up with her heart pounding as a fast lighting bolt opened her door looked in the hallway, she saw nothing. She went back to her room laid back down in bed and again she heard the same noise, she jumped out of bed and rushed to her door. Emma saw that her great aunt Margo's door was moving back and forth. When she looked in all she saw was the window open and the curtain moving. As she blinked she saw two red eyes glaring at her, she ran back to her room and slammed the door shut behind her and locked it. The next morning Emma went downstairs and told her mom what she saw, but her mom didn't believe her. At the end Emma's great aunt Margo reveals that she is a vampire. And that is what my book is about.

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### **Amy (Books, College, and Other Random Things) says**

This *Totally Bites!* by Ruth Ames is a book in the Poison Apple series, a paranormal version of the Candy Apple series.

Emma-Rose Paley is completely opposite from her family. She has black hair, loves rainy weather, and pale skin. Her dog, Bram, also hates her. Emma-Rose's mother works at the American Museum of Natural History having a Creature of the Night exhibit that Margo has been a consultant on. When her great-aunt Margo comes to visit, she's glad to see that she looks like her AND isn't liked by Bram either.

At her middle school, she has a BFF, Gabby, and two other friends, Padma and Caitlyn. She's on the student council with Gabby. Ashlee Lambert is the student council president, and one of the queen bees of West Side Prep. Henry Green is the student council vice-president and is constantly teasing Emma-Rose. When he calls attendance, he always calls her Pale Paley.

If this isn't enough, Emma-Rose discovers something terrifying. At night, she hears some noises, so she goes to Margo's room to check it out. She realizes that Margo is a vampire. After doing some research, Emma-Rose quickly realizes that she is a vampire, too. Gabby isn't on board with the theory. Is Emma-Rose a vampire or is it an overactive imagination?

I really liked this book. There was a part of the ending that I didn't see coming at all. Emma-Rose was quiet in the beginning of the story, but she ended up growing a backbone. I liked seeing her become more confident. I think kids will enjoy this series.

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### **Rebecca McNutt says**

When I saw the cover for this book I thought, "cool, a book that kids who feel different can relate to!" I was in grade 7 at the time, when it first came out, and I immediately bugged my parents until they bought me a copy.

Unfortunately it was a big disappointment. :(

Emma-Rose Paley ('cuz she's *pale*, get it? ...Yeah, another lame joke that authors think they conceal so well in names). At first she seemed like a unique and original character, but by page four she just got on my nerves. And the author was trying way too hard to appeal to lazy Generation Y kids, bringing I-Phones and a Wii gaming system and such into the story which just seemed out of place. The novel is predictable, dull, unoriginal and the characters come across as just spoiled, apathetic and annoying. Again, this is an example of what happens when Scholastic tries to publish gothy-style books, and hire someone who writes like a school psychologist for the job.

It also seems to correspond with the Twilight fad and vampire romance trend that was sweeping the world at the time. So it was probably trying to offer middle-grade readers a chance to experience what their older brothers and sisters were all excited about. Unfortunately this book is just pathetic, and it's sad that the cover is better than the book itself.

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