



Lies, Knives, and Girls in Red Dresses

By Ron Koertge

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Lies, Knives, and Girls in Red Dresses By Ron Koertge

Writing in free verse honed to a wicked edge, the incomparable Ron Koertge brings dark and contemporary humor to twenty iconic fairy tales.

Once upon a time, there was a strung-out match girl who sold CDs to stoners. Twelve impetuous sisters escaped King Daddy's clutches to jiggle and cavort and wear out their shoes. A fickle Thumbelina searched for a tiny husband, leaving bodies in her wake. And Little Red Riding Hood confessed that she kind of *wanted* to know what it's like to be swallowed whole. From bloodied and blinded stepsisters (they were duped) to a chopped-off finger flying into a heroine's cleavage, this is fairy tale world turned upside down. Ron Koertge knows what really happened to all those wolves and maidens, ogres and orphans, kings and piglets, and he knows about the Ever After. So come closer — he wants to whisper in your ear.

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Lies, Knives, and Girls in Red Dresses By Ron Koertge Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #736532 in Books
- Published on: 2012-07-10
- Released on: 2012-07-10
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.30" h x .53" w x 7.09" l, .80 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 96 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

With sardonic wit and a decidedly contemporary sensibility, Koertge retells 23 classic fairy tales in free verse, written from the perspectives of iconic characters like Little Red Riding Hood, as well as maligned or minor figures such as the Mole from Thumbelina and Cinderella's stepsisters... A fiendishly clever and darkly funny collection.

—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

A much-honored poet and novelist retells, in free verse and from various points of view, twenty-three familiar tales (mostly Grimm, Andersen, and Perrault). With a contemporary sensibility and voice, Koertge pitches directly to teenagers. . . Dezsö's choice of cut-paper illustrations is brilliant, a nod to Hans C. Andersen's skill in that medium despite the radically different tone.

—The Horn Book (starred review)

The poems beg to be shared aloud, like the best gossip. The sensibilities are wry, often dark, and the language is occasionally earthy... This slim volume is at once simple and sophisticated, witty and unnerving.

—School Library Journal

About the Author

Ron Koertge is the author of many award-winning novels, including *Stoner & Spaz* and its sequel, *Now Playing: Stoner & Spaz II*; *Shakespeare Bats Cleanup*; *Strays*; *Deadville*; *Margaux with an X*; *The Brimstone Journals*; and *The Arizona Kid*. A two-time winner of the PEN Literary Award for Children's Literature, he lives in South Pasadena, California.

Andrea Dezsö is a visual artist and writer who works across a broad range of media. She is a full-time faculty member at the Maryland Institute College of Art and lives in New York City.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jordan Sampson:

Information is provisions for those to get better life, information these days can get by anyone with everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even restricted. What people must be consider when those information which is from the former life are hard to be find than now is taking seriously which one would work to believe or which one typically the resource are convinced. If you have the unstable resource then you have it as your main information you will have huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen inside you if you take Lies, Knives, and Girls in Red Dresses as your daily resource information.

Theresa Diaz:

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