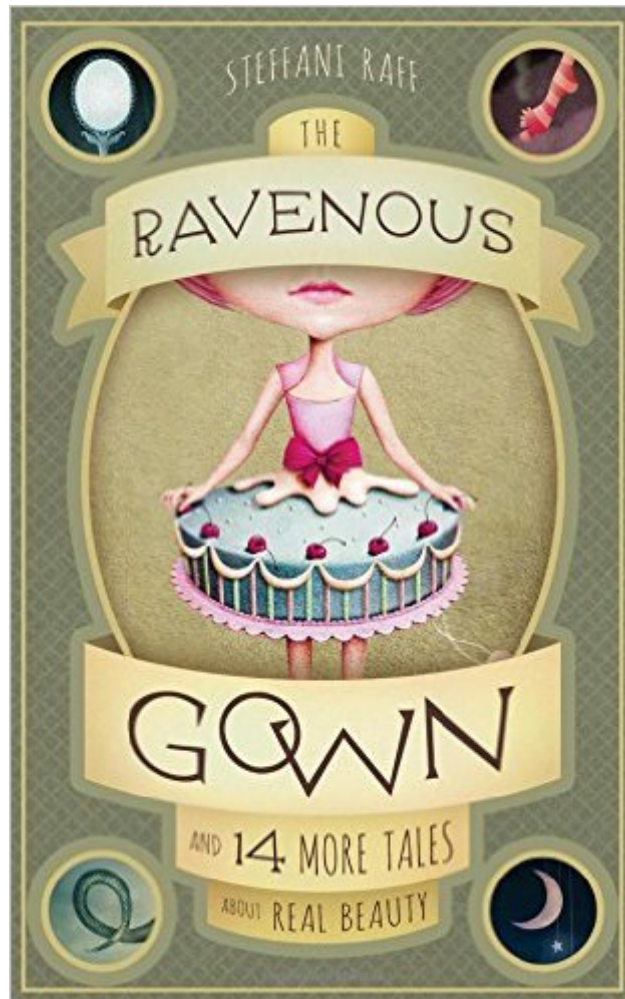


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# The Ravenous Gown: And 14 More Tales About Real Beauty



## Synopsis

In a day when princesses have been boiled down to beautiful ball gowns comes a new kind of fairy tale. Fall under the spell of a "Once upon a time . . ." where beauty is bigger than a reflection, where wisdom makes girls extraordinary, and where curses are broken through the strength and character of unlikely heroines. A magnificent collection of short stories written in fairy tale prose, *The Ravenous Gown* captures the essence of a stronger, smarter princess the kind that actually lives happily ever after.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (19 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I read a story or two with my granddaughters when they come to visit. The stories have surprises throughout them, and always have a takeaway message. My granddaughters are ten and eight, and both love the stories equally. I plan to purchase at least two more copies so they can each have their own when we finish it together. I think this would be a great gift to give a family for birthdays, holidays or for no reason at all. I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants to spend time reading with a child. I think life lessons can be taught one on one, and this book does that in a fun and entertaining way.

Wow! Wow! Wow! That's all I can say. I love that this book is full of new stories that are cleverly written, fun to read, and chock full of great messages for my daughters (and my sons). This isn't a "moral tales" book, although you could use it that way. Instead, this is a book that is going to make you think about beauty and appearance and judging others. Each story takes a different angle. You

can read it in one sitting, or you can savor the stories one by one over a longer period of time. I plan on reading the stories one at a time to my four kids -- ages 14 to 8 -- two boys and two girls.

The sub-title of the book promises tales about "Real Beauty." It is a very timely and much needed topic these days, with every other storytelling-related article talking about Cinderella's tiny waist. More and more people are paying attention to the representations of beauty girls (and boys) are bombarded with. But here is the thing: Storytellers, especially ones that work with kids regularly, break out in hives from "preachy" tales. I am no exception. I never end my tales with "and the moral of the story is..." If the story is not good, I don't care how important the message is. Okay, so I am getting to the point: These stories are good. (For a more detailed review: <http://multicolorediary.blogspot.com/2015/03/storytelling-book-review-ravenous-gown.html>)

Steffani Raff has the wonderful ability to make old tales feel fresh and new, while giving her new tales the weight and depth of the classics. That's what this book is a reworking of the classics for a more enlightened sensibility. The messages of real beauty are needed now more than ever as our girls are under siege by a society that sexualizes and marginalizes them for profit. I wondered if the stories would only be appealing for younger girls, but I read it with my 14 year old, who loved it. A beautiful book!

From stories of a princess who knows she's more than a gown, to a girl who saves her entire valley, and on to a princess who changes her dragon; The Ravenous Gown is about powerful girls who recognize that their power comes not from being like the boys, but by being girls. Steffani Raff's stories are heartwarming with depth and humor. The Ravenous Gown is the perfect snowy day read. It has the kind of stories that beg to be read with hot cocoa and a cozy blanket. I look forward to reading it aloud to my daughter.

My 10-year-old daughter loved this book! I read each short story after she did, and then we used the 2-3 discussion questions to talk about what true beauty is. It was very enlightening and also a great mother/daughter activity! At a time when the world tells girls that only their outer beauty matters, this book reminds them that who they are is what counts. Well worth it!

I truly love the stories. As a mother of two young girls I look forward to sharing the stories in this book with them. These short stories are easy to read and are empowering for girls; teaching them

about true beauty, being proud of who they are, the power of their individual gifts, and the importance of being kind. I am grateful to have such uplifting messages in a fun to read format.

Capable, confident women - only some of them princesses - grace the pages of this book. Steffani paints compelling and entertaining word portraits of these role models. Having heard her tell the title story live helps me to imagine these stories as she might tell them - which only enhances the experience. Great stories to read and share!

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