



Bad Apple

By Laura Ruby

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"If I really wanted to open up, I'd confess that I really am the liar everyone believes I am."

Everyone thinks Tola Riley is crazy. Everyone except Mr. Mymer, her art teacher. He doesn't care about her green hair, or nose ring—and he gets her paintings and lets her hang out in the art room during lonely lunch periods.

Although Tola likes to keep to herself, when rumors start flying about an affair between her and Mr. Mymer, she is suddenly at the center of a scandal. The whole town is judging her—even her family. When Mr. Mymer is suspended, she has no choice but to break her silence. The question is, will anyone believe her?

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Bad Apple By Laura Ruby Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 8 Up—As in *Good Girls* (HarperTempest, 2006), Ruby explores how technology affects the high school social landscape. When the story starts, green-haired artist Tola Riley has already been falsely accused of an illicit involvement with her art teacher. Mr. Mymer is out of school pending an investigation, and rumors are circulating among classmates, particularly at an anonymously administered Web site called theruthabouttolariley.com. Comments by classmates, school administrators, and family members appear after each chapter, giving readers a diverse set of perspectives on Tola's situation. The teen is an unusual and likable narrator. She is sarcastic and frustrated with her environment without seeming overly downcast or self-absorbed, and her passion for art and fairy tales is genuine and appealing. Her harried mother, patient grandparents, and emotionally unstable sister are equally well drawn. Seven, her romantic interest (who also likes fairy tales and slipping cupcakes into Tola's locker), is a bit too perfect and too flat to be believed. The villain emerges as one of the most compelling characters; it is clear from her blog comments that she enjoys exploiting the perceived insecurities of strangers, and that her spreading rumors is as much about relishing chaos as it is about hurting her former friend. Tola's friendships, family situation, status at school, and understanding of the truth all change in subtle but appreciable ways over the course of the novel. Artists, compassionate teens, and readers who enjoyed *Good Girls* will laugh, hurt, and roll their eyes along with this witty individualist of a heroine and her friends and supporters.—*Megan Honig, New York Public Library*

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From [Booklist](#)

High school junior Tola (short for Cenerentola) is a determinedly iconoclastic artist, who sees little point in school outside her art class led by the nonconformist art teacher Mr. Mymer. A spiteful classmate spreads false rumors about Tola and Mr. Mymer, and the teacher loses his job as a result. But plot is not what drives this clever, sardonic character study. Tola and her family are fascinating, quirky-yet-believable, and wholly likable. Ruby works in traditional fairy tale elements (an evil stepmother, abandonment, Tola's name that references the Italian version of Cinderella) with wry humor. Short chapters titled “comments” offer documentary-style quotes from other characters, so we see Tola’s world through others’ eyes. Ruby’s thoughtful descriptions of art, artists, and the creative process are reminiscent of Brock Cole’s *Celine* (1989). Visual artists will love this homage to creativity, and teens outside the status quo will find a kindred spirit in plucky Tola. Grades 8-12. --Debbie Carton

Review

“There’s wit and cleverness as well as sympathy in both the writing and in the touches of fairy-tale allusion. This is both an absorbing read and a thought-provoking one.” (Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books (**starred review**))

“A creatively constructed story with a modern-day scandal.” (Publishers Weekly)

“A provocative premise, which is by turns hilarious and touching.” (Kirkus)

“A clever, sardonic character study. Tola and her family are fascinating, quirky-yet-believable, and wholly likable. Visual artists will love this homage to creativity, and teens outside the status quo will find a kindred spirit in plucky Tola.” (Booklist)

“[Tola] is an unusual and likable narrator. Readers will laugh, hurt, and roll their eyes along with this witty

individualist of a heroine and her friends and supporters.” (School Library Journal)

“Ruby’s novel has plenty to distinguish it. Tola is one of a kind—a creative artist with a distinct worldview.” (The Horn Book)

Praise for Good Girls: “Harrowing, honest and wickedly funny.” (Libba Bray, Printz Award winning author of Going Bovine)

“Pervaded by melancholy, witty, frank about sex, at pains not to indulge in stereotyping, GOOD GIRLS will undoubtedly appeal to readers made savvy about the otherworld of American school life.” (Financial Times)

“A frank, realistic portrayal of teen life.” (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) (**starred review**))

Praise for Play Me: “Guy lit with a brain and a heart, this has plenty to offer both romantics and cynics about love, film, and transformation.” (Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books)

“A good coming-of-age story where boy meets reality and discovers he may have to rethink the rest of the story.” (KLIATT)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Shannon Silva:

Reading can called thoughts hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book mainly book entitled Bad Apple your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe unfamiliar for but surely might be your mind friends. Imaging each word written in a publication then become one application form conclusion and explanation in which maybe you never get ahead of. The Bad Apple giving you another experience more than blown away your thoughts but also giving you useful info for your better life in this era. So now let us show you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning a sport. Do you want to try this extraordinary spending spare time activity?

Katie Grossi:

Bad Apple can be one of your basic books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort that will put every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing Bad Apple although doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource data that maybe you can be one of it. This great information can drawn you into fresh stage of crucial considering.

Pierre Winter:

With this era which is the greater man or who has ability to do something more are more special than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you should do is just spending

your time almost no but quite enough to have a look at some books. One of the books in the top list in your reading list is definitely Bad Apple. This book and that is qualified as The Hungry Mountains can get you closer in becoming precious person. By looking right up and review this publication you can get many advantages.

Lloyd Gilbert:

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