



## Girl King

*Brittany Cavallaro*

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The poems in Brittany Cavallaro's *Girl-King* are whispered from behind a series of masks, those of victim and aggressor, nineteenth-century madam and reluctant magician's girl, of truck-stop Persephone and frustrated Tudor scholar. This "expanse of girls, expanding still," chase each other through history, disappearing in an Illinois cornfield only to reemerge on the dissection table of a Scottish artist-anatomist. But these poems are not just interested in historical narrative: they peer, too, at the past's marginalia, at its "blank pages" as well as its "scrawls and dashes." Always, they return to "the dark, indelicate question" of power and sexuality, of who can rule the "city where no one is from." These girls search for the connection between "alive and will stay that way," between each dying star and the emptiness that can collapse everything.

## Girl King Details

Date : Published March 1st 2015 by University of Akron Press

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Author : Brittany Cavallaro

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## From Reader Review Girl King for online ebook

### Scarlet says

A beautiful poetry collection by a powerful new poet (at least new to me). I got lost in Cavallaro's poems, reading them over and over again, wishing I could hide in the stories she tells. I normally have no or very little trouble choosing my favourite poem(s) from collections, but it's impossible in this case, because I was inspired and impressed by every single one of them.

So far *Girl-King* is definitely my favourite poetry collection I've read in 2016 and until Cavallaro releases a new one, I'll be more than happy to check out the first book in her "Charlotte Holmes" trilogy!

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### Lauren says

Based on Cavallaro's short bio here on GR, I see that she considers herself a "Sherlockian" and has actually written a YA series in that theme. In *Girl-King*, she sets the majority of poems in this same dark and shadowed space, gothic and macabre, "cabinet of curiosity" style. While I too like this period, the poetry didn't always work for me - your mileage may vary.

Highlight section for me was *The Resurrectionists* and the various cadavers and their imagined lives. At least I think that was what was happening...

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### Melody says

I am trying to get more info poetry. I love this author, and I loved the premise of this collection. The writing was exquisite. But also I think I only understood a fraction of what was going on here. This is definitely one I will want to revisit.

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### Heather Nicole says

My first dive into poetry comes with a surprising unpopular opinion. Though the author did have some beautifully written lines, the poetry did not seem to stay consistent. The surrounding lines came across as scattered thoughts and the overall theme became lost.

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### Laura S says

Utterly magical <3

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## **Madi Jefferies says**

Vague, dim, and dismal, I didn't particularly enjoy reading this collection of poetry for my Writing Poetry class at North Central College. I struggled to find meaning within the poems and couldn't quite grasp on to anything besides dark images and trauma. I would like to think that I'm just missing a well-buried theme, but I could not enjoy these poems no matter how deep I \*tried\* to dig into them.

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## **Brittney Andrews (beabookworm) says**

### **Superstition**

*The clouds move like scissors subtracting the sky.  
In the attic I shear my wedding dress to my knees.*

*I repeat your name until I forget mine,  
push my hands through the mirror at midnight.*

*And **Brittney** Brittany—you are no magician's girl so why  
do you let him saw through all your articulate ribs.*

### **Notes:**

**Girl-King** (i): in medieval England, during the Twelfth Night festival (which ended on All Hallows Eve), a Lord of Misrule was elected during a feast. Whoever found a bean baked into his cake would be this "king" until midnight; whoever found a pea would be his queen.

This historically inspired collection of poetry is magical, brutal, atmospheric and *bone-chilling*; I was left completely satisfied but greedily ravenous for more.

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## **Kate says**

### **4.5 Empowering Poetic Stars**

I have always had a strange relationship with poetry, where it finds me after multiple readings and each time I glean a deeper message from the carefully arranged words. With Brittany Cavallaro's *Girl-King*, I did require a second and in some cases third reading, but the power and developing narrative across the entire collection kept me enraptured. An early step in my quest to read more poetry, and personally it was a beautifully symbolic step in the right direction.

