



# The Perfume

*Caroline B. Cooney*

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*Venom.*

Dove doesn't *want* to buy the perfume. She doesn't like its scent. And its name frightens her.

But somehow she can't help herself. It's almost as if something--or someone--inside her is forcing her to try it.

Dove was always a nice person, a sweet and gentle girl on whom friends could rely.

Until now.

Because when Dove puts on the perfume, she unleashes a part of herself that has been locked away all her life.

It is a second self she never knew existed.

And it is *Evil*.

## The Perfume Details

Date : Published July 1st 1992 by Scholastic (first published 1992)

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Author : Caroline B. Cooney

Format : Paperback 167 pages

Genre : Horror, Young Adult, Fiction, Teen, Thriller

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# From Reader Review The Perfume for online ebook

## Jess says

Nothing about this book makes sense. Very bizarre.

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## Taralen says

Where should I start on this?

Well I'm going to poke at that cover for having a bottle that looks NOTHING like the one in the book.

Now on to the real review:

Dove Daniels (What a name) is the main character. She is a 15 yr old goody-goody with some odd phobias. She checks her bed for monsters, she thinks parking lots are the end of the world, and she's just overall pessimistic, which is rather odd for her "sweet and lovely" personality.

Anyway, despite her obvious symbolic name, Dove seems to be curious about getting a change in her life. So to be "cool" so to speak, she buys this really foul smelling perfume called VENOM. A no brainer there.

What comes out of this perfume is the supposed "vanished twin" of Dove, WING. Wow. WING. Obviously symbolic but it's a big "DUH" type of symbolism. Nothing deep there.

Long story short (literally), the entire plot (AND I MEAN LITERALLY) is composed of Dove's internal struggle with Wing. Now this would have been a very interesting concept but it was poorly executed.

Wing is a character who is honestly so twisted and all over the place that you can't #\$\$^ing tell what kind of person she really is.

At first I sympathized, I thought she was just troubled and angry. But no. The author switches from a "troubled unwanted twin" to a "crazy and demented Egyptian spirit monster thing of some sort who just hates everything" to "really just a dark side of Dove" character.

None of the characters have depth. They are all pretty black and white (minus Hesta who showed in the end she wasn't really EVIL but just a bitch.)

If you want to read this book read it for laughs. The metaphors and similes used are sometimes hilariously corny.

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## Rebecca McNutt says

I've had a copy of this book sitting around on my bookshelf for a while, so I decided to read it yesterday. It has its ups and downs but overall it's a surprisingly creepy young adult horror novel with a theme about self-esteem underlying in its haunting story about beauty coming at a sinister price.

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## Kate says

Some of these books I read as a teenager had such ridiculous premises... That's the only reason I remembered this one. Also, the girl's name was Dove. Like the soap.

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### **Dark Ruby Girl says**

I remember reading point horror books when I was younger, this one and freeze tag were some of the ones that stood out in my memory, along with the babysitter, Beach House and Prom Date, and one about dreams that I forget the name of. The Fun House and the Invitation. I always remember liking the style of writing Caroline B Cooney has, she has a very descriptive style. The book starts off with Dove Daniels, who can be a bit annoying, she's not very strong character in the beginning, scared of practically everything, she lets her friends decide everything she does, her parents mostly ignore her. That sort of thing. But as the story goes on, she buys a bottle of perfume on the spur of the moment, something she would never normally buy called Venom. Now, here's where the magical side of things comes into the story, the Venom releases an ancient evil, a vanished twin called Wing. Doves parents often tell the story of the sister Dove never knew, the Twin who died and was never born. It's a sad story but the ancient evil turns out to be Wing, trying to possess Dove's body, apparently she has been there all along, trapped for 15 years, getting bitter and twisted and she wants revenge for what happened to her. Even though it was something that couldn't be helped. Half way through the book you're never really sure if Dove really released something evil using the perfume or if she is really going insane and I think this could have gone into more detail, this part of the plot. It only lasted a few short chapters....I know these books are for young adults and short anyway. Anyway, Dove has to learn to fight and be a stronger person. It's a very interesting and creepy idea in my opinion, could have been a bit longer, more detailed.

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### **Sandra says**

I could not get through this book. The writing is idiotic and annoying, the characters are not likeable and I did not find the story engaging whatsoever. I really did like the concept of the book but it was not executed very well unfortunately.

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### **Paula Brandon says**

I would have hated this as a kid! But as an adult, I enjoyed the writing and the loopy-ness of it all. Yes, Cooney tends to over-write, and her books all seem to be a parable about the individual choosing between good and evil, but this one evoked a sinister atmosphere that hooked me in! Unfortunately, Cooney can't seem to decide what is actually behind the evil perfume and Dove's vanished twin, which lets the story down. And a climax involving an interpretive dance in a mall's water fountain? Hardly exciting!

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### **Sylvie says**

lmao, this book is ridiculous. I enjoyed it.

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### **Meconopsis Lingholm says**

wow, this was awful :D it gets a 3 star rating and a ":D" because I had great fun reading it aloud in an overdramatic voice, reminiscent of both william shatner and laurence olivier. it irritated my 17 yo even worse than when I read aloud from popco in my cali-hipster voice. (popco review coming shortly)

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### **Dena says**

I'm sure not ALL vintage teen horror is a 5-star affair, but my nostalgia tells me they're 5 stars. I wanna re-read so many of these books!

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### **Jessica says**

It's not great, but it's weird AF and I respect that.

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### **Kirsty says**

This book is utterly batshit and I LOVE it. It was my favourite Point Horror book when I was 13, and re-reading it at 33 I can see why: I was an overly-dramatic, wordy, moody, Ancient Egypt-obsessed teenager, and this book is all of those things.

Just re-read this for Episode 1 of the Teenage Scream podcast (lovingly dissecting the best and worst of 90s teen horror). Listen here, or subscribe on your podcast app:

<https://soundcloud.com/teenagescream>

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### **Ken says**

Dove couldn't help but buy a bottle of Venom after seeing an advert for the perfume in a newspaper, but little did she know that it was about to unleash her evil twin.

One of the weirder Point Horror's, but the conflict between the two sides made for a great read. These sort of stories the range does so well.

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### **Michelle Toy says**

5 out of 5 Point Horror Book Stars!

(I rate these books compared to other Point Horror Books Only)

I read this as part of the #pointhorrorbookclub that I run monthly!

Want to know more about #pointhorrorbookclub - check this out <http://talesofyesterday.co.uk/tales-p...>

All in all I personally liked this book - classic retro point horror!

For more reviews and book chat please visit [www.talesofyesterday.co.uk](http://www.talesofyesterday.co.uk)

Please be aware that the discussion will contain spoilers!

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## **Farah says**

Another wonderfully insane book from Cooney, I must say the main character Dove is so insipid that a part of me was rooting for Wing to just 'win'. Dove 'I'm nice, I'm good, I'm scared of car parks' developing a second personality, due to what seems like lifelong parental neglect was truly creepy. The bit about going bonkers in mall fountain - brilliant, inspiring. If my local mall had a huge fountain I would be tempted to jump in whilst dancing and screaming at Egyptian gods for shits and giggles thanks to The Perfume. Thank you C.B Cooney! I remember this book having a much better cover image as a teen.

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