

Poison Study (Study #1)

Maria V. Snyder

Reviewed by: Marissa Klippenstein, 21

Star Teen Book Reviewer of *Be the Star You Are!* Charity

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Thrown into the castle dungeon, Yelena believes she is about to be executed for murder. Right before her execution, however, she is given a chance to live. She'll eat the best meals, have a room in the palace—but run the risk of being assassinated at any moment. And so Yelena chooses to become a food taster for the Commander of Ixia. Not wanting her to try to escape, the chief of security purposefully feeds her Butterfly's Dust, a poison for which the antidote must be taken daily, or else she will die. As Yelena tries to escape her new predicament, tragedy keeps rising. Radicals scheme to seize Ixia and Yelena discovers magical powers she can't control. Once again, her life is threatened and choices must be made. This time, the outcomes aren't so predictable...

This book was very enjoyable! There is a lot involved in the plot, and a lot of different directions I didn't expect the story to go in! The detail and research that went into poison and poison tasting is obvious and something readers will really appreciate while Yelena trains in this field. I found it fascinating. I also liked how well done the romance was written. It didn't feel forced or random. The story jumped right into the action, so this is a book that can easily be read in one sitting.

I would recommend this book for ages 15+. Rating for general sexual themes and violence.

This book would be a great gift to anybody interested in an original fantasy story and magic.

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