



Models Don't Eat Chocolate Cookies

Erin Dionne

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Walk the runway for all the world to see?

Nope. No way. NEVER.

At least, that's what I *thought*—until Aunt Doreen secretly entered me in the Miss HuskyPeach pageant for plus-sized girls. I couldn't do it, but I felt too guilty to quit.

There was only one way out...

This is the story of thirteen-year-old Celeste Harris, who used to be perfectly comfortable with her weight. She also used to think nothing would make eighth grade worse than super-popular, super-mean Lively Carson's persistent insults and attempts to steal her best friend. But along came the chance of being crowned a chubby teen queen, and suddenly it was clear: Things could be much worse. So Celeste crafts a plan—she'll sacrifice her chocolate cookie obsession, lose weight, and shrink right out of the competition.

What follows is a series of escapades both hilarious and horrifying, as our heroine tries to hold her head high both on the catwalk and off—and learns to show the world who she is from the inside out.

Models Don't Eat Chocolate Cookies Details

Date : Published February 5th 2009 by Dial Books

ISBN : 9780803732964

Author : Erin Dionne

Format : Paperback 243 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Realistic Fiction, Fiction, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Childrens, Middle Grade

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From Reader Review Models Don't Eat Chocolate Cookies for online ebook

Grace R says

Sometimes, being yourself is all that matters. That saying I think best represents this book. Meet thirteen-year-old Celeste Harris, living in Los Apitos, who is basically the opposite of a stereotypical “girl”. Skinny, athletic, good-looking, all those qualities. Celeste thinks that a comfy track suit and a daily dose of cookies are perfectly fine. Her life is low-key, until her aunt enters her in the HuskyPeach Modeling Challenge, saying it was time there was another model in the family and that it would earn her scholarship money. Celeste is being forced to walk the runway for the world to see, and at the same time losing her best-friend to her enemy, Lively, the head of the popular crowd. Now, she has to find a way to get her best-friend back, and enter Operation Skinny Celeste to slim out of the competition, even if it means giving up her chocolate cookie obsession.

I didn't really enjoy the first part of this book because of the plunge into the story. The book started as if the first chapter was actually the second or third one. I felt like I needed to know more about Celeste and her background. One thing that surprised me was how Celeste didn't report Lively's bullying. I know the teasing might not have sounded that bad, but I think it was really serious. In the end, I thought it gave Celeste a little reason to boost her confidence. I ended up really liking this novel, and I thought it is an inspiration for girls who are bullied or are Celeste's weight. I definitely recommend this book, but mostly to girls because there is really nothing that would interest boys in this novel. Erin Dionne wrote this book beautifully, and I can't wait to read more by her.

Rainrocks^o^(aka Breanna) says

Wow! This really is a great book! It makes you think about other people and their feelings! IT IS A MUST READ!!!

YA Reads Book Reviews says

Celeste has body image issues, but its no surprise considering she cops it everywhere she goes. At school the kids constantly taunt her about her body and at home she's in the shadow of her two cousins who are so beautiful that they're model material – literally. Her cousin Kathleen has been entering herself in beauty pageants for ages now, and Kirsten is a supreme athlete. Celeste is ... well, Celeste is just Celeste.

Then one day, Celeste's Aunt secretly enters her into a plus-sized modelling competition. Celeste's mother is overjoyed and thinks this is just what Celeste needs, but Celeste doesn't agree. Don't they understand how the kids at school will treat her if they see her modelling for a plus-sized clothing company? It would be the most humiliating thing ever, and Celeste isn't sure she'll survive it. So she devises a plan to spoil her chances

of being selected. You can't be a plus sized model if you're not plus sized, right?

Right.

So Celeste decides that in order to preserve her dignity, it might be time to step away from the cookies, just for now. She embarks on a weight loss plan and is determined to lose enough weight so that the judges will think she's not big enough for their competition.

Losing weight is hard. Actually, it bites the big one – badly. Apples are not nearly as interesting as cookies, not even close.

Celeste has other problems, too. Her long time best friend seems to have ditched her for the most popular girl in school – who also happens to be Celeste's enemy number one. How will Celeste deal with this rejection on top of everything else?

Models Don't Eat Chocolate Cookies raises some interesting discussion points about body image. As Celeste begins to lose weight, everything in her life seems to fall into place. I have some pretty firm opinions about body image and when I was reading this I actually found myself feeling a little irritated that Celeste's happiness increased as a direct result of her weight loss. I found myself asking 'what kind of message does this send to the kids of the world?' But I realised that because of my own views on the subject, I approached the novel with a very closed mind. Models has a whole stack of really important messages that I think are worth a detailed discussion. For example, yes, Celeste's life does get better the smaller she becomes but she never lets herself become obsessed with dieting and it is important to note that she ends up at a much healthier body weight at the end of the novel. I think its important to realise that there are important messages about inner health woven into the text as well as messages about body image. If you approach the text with a body-image mindset only, you're likely to be unsatisfied with the end result. You need to read it as a multi-faceted text, because that's exactly what it is. While it may seem that Celeste's family approach her weight-loss from a superficial perspective, if you read a little closer you'll see that they're all about Celeste's health and mental well-being.

Models is like a really pretty dress made from two tone colour fabric: pretty and fresh whichever way you look at it.

Like with any novel that approaches a sensitive subject like this one, I'm sure anyone that reads it is going to want to discuss it somewhere. I am chomping at the bit to talk to someone about this so we've decided that we're going straight to the source. We're in the process of interviewing Erin Dionne about her novel and her views on the issue of health and body image. Stay tuned for more.

Trisha says

I thought this was cute and light. Perfect for my vacation reading. I'm not sure why it took me so long to finish....I definitely liked it.

Alaina Meserole says

Models Don't Eat Chocolate Cookies was hilarious! Celeste was my everything! I'm sure if I was a die hard oreo fan I'd be in that pageant right beside her. Screw the people at her school for making fun of her just because of her weight. Kids are cruel.

Okay so this pageant is for plus-size models and since she is already made fun of constantly by classmates she really doesn't want them to find out about this. Celeste decides to go on a diet. Oh lord, those things are hard.. and for a kid?!? Ridiculous!

Besides the hangryness from no oreos, Celeste eventually loses one of her best friends to her nemesis. UGH! Girls are so cruel some times. Oh, and the teasing hasn't stopped either. I hated the mean girl bit and all of the bullying towards this one girl. Celeste was the sweetest thing! Who cares if she has a slight obsession with Oreos?!? Shoot, I don't care. I would've been her best friend for life. Fuck the haters!

In the end, Celeste found out who her true friends were. She also emerged out of this experience as a beautiful butterfly. She became way more confident in who she was as a person. I loved it. I loved her. Yes, she lost weight but it was in a healthy way. Plus, she learned to stand up for herself at such a young age. Honestly, she's my hero for doing all of this in 8th grade. I don't even know what I was doing in that grade but it definitely wasn't that.

Cara says

While reading this book it reminded me how tough the middle school years can be. You practically remember the smells of insecurity, and since I was a chubby girl myself at those times I could relate to our main character Celeste. I could feel her pain when she talked about the dreaded one mile run! So glad that's over.

Well, the story begins with Celeste trying on a bridesmaid dress for her cousin's wedding. While her family and her are leaving the store, her Aunt Doreen sees a pamphlet for a contest to become the face for the clothing line Peach Wear and be the next Miss Husky Peach. Celeste totally dismisses the idea of becoming a fat model. Who wants to be known for that? Before she knows it though she is one of the twelve contestants competing for the title Miss Husky Peach.

Our main character decides she can't win if she loses the weight so she creates a masterplan to purposely not win this contest, and this is where things start to pick up and....

Throughout this story you see friendships fall apart and new ones created and root for Celeste when she starts to gain confidence while the weight starts coming off. I really like the little twist in the end, but I couldn't have myself give it more stars for the sole reason that when I finished all I could think of was "that was a nice story". Highly recommended for middle school aged girls.

Rachel says

This is one SOLID book. I loved it. 5 stars, hands down. I want to own it, and I will not only allow my girls to read it when they approach Jr. High-age, but I will hand it to them to read!

As far as technical writing goes--this is a tight story. There is no useless information, no fluff. It's often funny, but the humor is seamless within the plot and very natural. The author creates a very rich setting. If I didn't know better, I would have thought that the "bully" was a very 2-dimensional character, but the fact is: I knew people exactly like that in Jr. High. I couldn't believe how many memories from that age came back to me. It was like I was reliving things, and I think that's why I was taken by surprise with this book. I expected it to be a funny book about a silly pageant. And that's what it was at the beginning. And then it all-of-a-sudden wasn't so funny to me anymore, because I remembered feeling hurt in the ways Celeste (main character) was feeling hurt. Then I wasn't sure I wanted to keep reading. But it was slightly cathartic and very engaging, and the story kept going at such a great pace, that it didn't make it difficult to keep reading.

The other thing that suprised me was the fact that I was surprised by the way certain things were resolved! I find a lot of books to be somewhat predictable, even if I enjoy them, but this one had me enjoying little turns-of events, in pleasing ways, up until the end. (Not that anything was Earth-shattering; just that the story kept moving even though I thought that the climax was over.)

I think Celeste is a great role-model. She feels "real" to me, and you can see a very subtle and natural change in her as the story moves along. I loved the way she ends up resolving her personal issues, and I wish more people would be that mature (myself included!). I think the author had to walk a fine line on such a big issue as weight, but she did it perfectly, and I can't see how anyone would be offended or think that there was a bad message anywhere in here. Celeste is a good, moral person.

If I could recommend this book to a book club, I would, and as a matter of fact, I think I will.

Kris says

One of the things I love most about Erin Dionne's books is that she really gets what it is like to be a bullied teen. She understands what it means to be different and uses that to create memorable characters in realistic situations. Her ways of dealing with bullies are ideas teens can use in their own lives once they muster the courage. Celeste loves Oreos and Twinkies. She would rather eat potatoes than other vegetables. Now that she is in eighth grade and trying on hideous bridesmaids dresses she is less than happy with her size. Especially since mean girl, Lively, uses every opportunity to call her a cow. To make matters worse, Lively is out to steal her best friend, Sandra. Sadly Sandra succumbs and ditches Celeste to join the mean girl gang. At the same time Celeste's aunt signs her up for a challenge modeling plus size teen clothing. Celeste is mortified and afraid this will just be more fodder for the mean girls. Celeste decides to lose weight in order not to be considered for plus size modelship and to try and sabotage the competition. These situations lead her on a journey of self discovery and new friendships. Watching her transformation from low self esteem to a braver young lady is fun and empowering to watch. Dealing with Sandra after she was so cruel was difficult, but I love how Celeste handled it. Many teen girls will see themselves in Celeste and will relate to her struggles. I highly recommend this book for them. I loved it as much as Carolyn Mackler's *The Earth, My Butt and Other Round Things*.

Kay Mcgriff says

Celeste's life used to fit her as comfortably as her favorite outfit—track pants and a hoodie that hid her perfectly round body. But now life is not so comfortable ever since her aunt Doreen secretly entered her in the Miss Husky Peach pageant. What will her classmates say if she's crowned beauty queen for fat girls? Lively Carson certainly doesn't need any more reason to insult Celeste. To make matters even worse, Celeste's best friend Sandra has become friends with Lively and only wants to be friends outside of school. But Celeste has a plan. She will give up chocolate cookies and lose so much weight she'll be disqualified from the competition. Watch out for plans that spew (all over the gym teacher's shoes) and crash (right in the middle of the runway).

I loved *Models Don't Eat Chocolate* by Erin Dionne. Actually, I loved Celeste. I loved how she changed from someone who hid behind her hoodie into someone who was unafraid to speak her mind. I don't know if I could have returned to the Husky Peach pageant after some of the disasters she faced—the bra bombing, the wardrobe malfunction, the peach monstrosity. The transformation of the peach monstrosity (a bridesmaid's dress for her cousin's wedding) from “hated uniform to resuce outfit to The Most Treasured Item of Clothing I Will Ever Own for the Rest of My Life” was no less amazing the transformation of Celeste.

First published on my blog at <http://kaymcgriff.edublogs.org/2011/1...>

Noa M says

I would give this *Models Don't Eat Chocolate Cookies* a 5 star rating because i think that it gave a clear picture of what life is like for some kids. No, not every kid does Husky Peach fashion shows because their aunt signs them up. No not every kid is going to have a brother that get hurt every time he plays baseball, but for some people life is really hard because they don't want to be a "husky peach" and they don't want their friends to turn on them, and although that is not what they want, it often happens. All of this happening to you would feel crazy but all of this happens to one specific girl, Celeste. I would recommend this book to any girls in 5th through 8th grade.

kaylin says

Quick Book Summary:

Celeste is qualified to participate in a plus sized modeling contest. She has a pretty great chance of winning the contest and so, she purposely tries to either be disqualified somehow or lose all together. You see, she thinks she will be made fun of at school by her not so friendly peers, if she wins the Husky Peach plus sized clothing store contest and becomes the Miss Husky Peach plus sized model. To prevent her from winning the several day challenge, she goes on a diet to eventually be too thin to win. This book talks about the conflicts Celeste faces to lose the modeling contest. Yet through all her efforts to lose, exercising, avoiding all chocolate cookies and drinking disgusting smoothies, she is the second runner up, but that is far better than winning to Celeste. In the end, she is more confident about herself, personality, appearance and all. Also, Celeste understands that "its what's on the inside that counts" after all the events that occur during her eighth grade year at her middle school. Her friends and family are very proud of her in the end and they all realize "there's more to a person than you may think."

Justify Your Rating: A

I really enjoyed this novel because it was eventful, funny and exciting. Celeste was a fantastic main character and I realized that she well relates to me and my friends. She is an average teenage girl who goes through life with many conflicts. I liked the modern day setting and how the book was written. I was entertained when I read this novel because the plot was crazy and the characters had fine personalities. I would recommend this book to girls around my age in middle school. This would be a fantastic book for my friends and peers because Celeste is close to my age now, and has a chaotic life just as most of the people I know do.

Mr says

Amy Brantner, 141 pages. This is an interesting and fun book to read. I loved the fact that it described Celeste Harris's (the main character) life in great detail. It is about an overweight girl, (Celeste) who's life seems to be pretty well. Other than a girl named Lively Carson who always makes fun of her, she is happy. She has a really nice best friend, and a great family. But her whole life changes soon after that. Her aunt signs her up for a chubby modeling contest, and she really doesn't want to do it. What would Lively say if she found out! But her mother makes her promise to at least do the first round. Then later, Lively tries and succeeds in stealing Celeste's best friend, Sandra. Sandra barely talks to Celeste any more! Can Celeste's life get any worse?! Well, Celeste is determined to lose enough weight to be too thin to do the "Huskypeach Modeling Challenge," and find out what her best friend's problem is. Can she do it? You'll have to read, "Models Don't Eat Chocolate Cookies" to find out! Mr. O'Shell, I did not finish the book. I read up to page 141 and wrote a recommendation based on that section of the book.

Rebecca says

[The main character, Celeste, is overweight. This is pointed out by her family wanting her to enter a modelling pageant for chubby girls. Her best friend, Sandra, turns o

Tahleen says

Probably just what I needed right about now. Eighth-grader Celeste, an overweight girl with a love for Oreos, is entered into a plus-size model beauty pageant ("Miss HuskyPeach") by her aunt. She's already made fun of a lot in school, and if anyone found out she was a "fat model" it would be the end of life as she knows it (after all she is in middle school--remember those days?). So as a way out, she decides to lose weight by going on a diet (not easy--no Oreos is tough). Throughout the whole HuskyPeach trial, she also has to go through losing her best friend to her worst enemy at school, plus the constant teasing by Queen Bee Lively. Luckily she finds out who her true friends are.

Not only do we get a great look at middle school life and all its terrors (I forgot how brutal it can be), but we also see how a girl can rise above it and come out on top. An anthem in self-esteem, this book made ME feel better about myself and want to be healthier. I think it's a great thing to show girls how to live a healthy lifestyle but also be proud of who they are, no matter what they look like (or what competitions they are in!). Be happy to be who you are and feel good about yourself!

Lori Verni-Fogarsi says

This book was recommended to me by my eleven-year-old daughter who loved it so much, she read it in two days. I was a little hesitant, as I don't normally read YA, but she recommended it so highly, I gave it a try. It was fantastic!

Great writing, believable characters, fantastic storyline. It's about an overweight middle school girl who is horrified when her Aunt enters her into a modeling competition for plus size girls. I was expecting it to be filled with messages entirely saying it's okay to be overweight (which I thought I'd be okay with). But I was pleasantly surprised, as the author developed the story in such a way that the message was more, "You have to be okay with yourself, either way." She did a great job of imparting the message without it seeming preachy at all. I think every female can relate to the main character!

At risk of providing too much detail (don't want to include any spoilers), I'd say that I highly recommend this novel for girls of any age. (There was no objectionable content for younger girls).

Loved it!

Nic says

I haven't read a YA novel since I WAS a young adult, so it's a bit hard for me to judge its quality as I have nothing to compare this to. But Erin is a fellow graduate of my MFA program at Emerson College so I had to snatch the book up the week it appeared in paperback.

The story started a bit slow, but once we went to round one of the "Husky Peach" modeling contest, the one she is determined to "throw" by giving lackluster answers during her personality interview, I was hooked. Erin creates some really winning characters (including the enemy you love to hate) and enough tension and subplots that I breezed through. I was delighted at the ending and watching Celeste emerge as a more confident girl.

On the negative side, the cover gave me a constant craving for Joe-Joes!

Anna says

This book handles the issue of teenage girls struggling with their weight very well, I think. This book tells the story of Celeste, a girl who definitely considers herself to be FAT. She gets teased at school about it and worst of all, her cousins are physically perfect, tan and athletic. She hates being compared to them. When her aunt signs her up for a plus size modeling pageant, Celeste reasons that if she loses enough weight, she'll be too skinny to take part in the pageant.

Along the way, Celeste gains so much self confidence and esteem. She starts loving and accepting her body, but still finding lots of motivation to eat healthy and exercise. I loved the character of Celeste and I think anyone, whether they feel uncomfortable about their body or not, will love her honesty.

One of my favorite aspects of the book is the relationship between Celeste and her best friend. (I can't remember her name...) They have been friends for years until Lively, the most popular girl in school steals Celeste's friend away. Celeste doesn't take this lightly and make up at the end with her backstabbing friend,

but does what I personally would do: tell her off. She doesn't even apologize, just comes and asks to hang out with Celeste when Lively leaves. Celeste realizes the only reason her friend wants to hang out with her for the first time in months is because Lively's gone. So she tells her she won't be a second choice and asserts that she is not someone to be kept off to the side. It's one of my favorite scenes!

Arapahoe Libraries says

Read as Celeste not only learns to lose weight but learns to stand up for herself and become more outgoing. A fun, fast read.

Ava says

Great book about positive image and self confidence!

Vicki says

I thought this book was really cute, even though parts of it were "hard" to read. Since this book's main character, Celeste, is only in 8th grade, one can only imagine the drama and the mean girls in it.

I couldn't stand the character of "Lively" at all. She is a bully and the type of real-life person who can make another live with emotional scars for life.

Friends come and go and they change as they grow older and meet new "friends."

Celeste has to learn to (or not to) deal with mistreatment from others.

Definitely worth reading.
