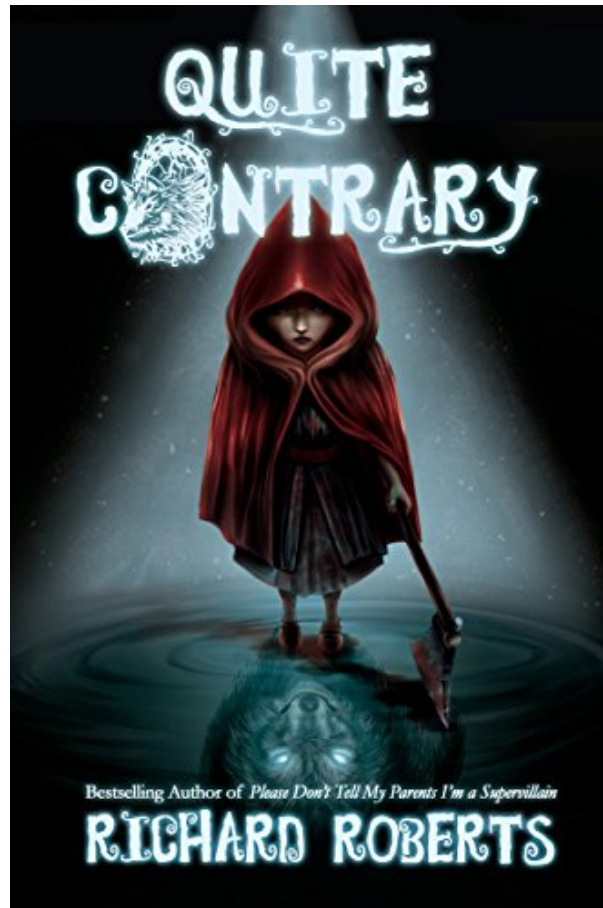
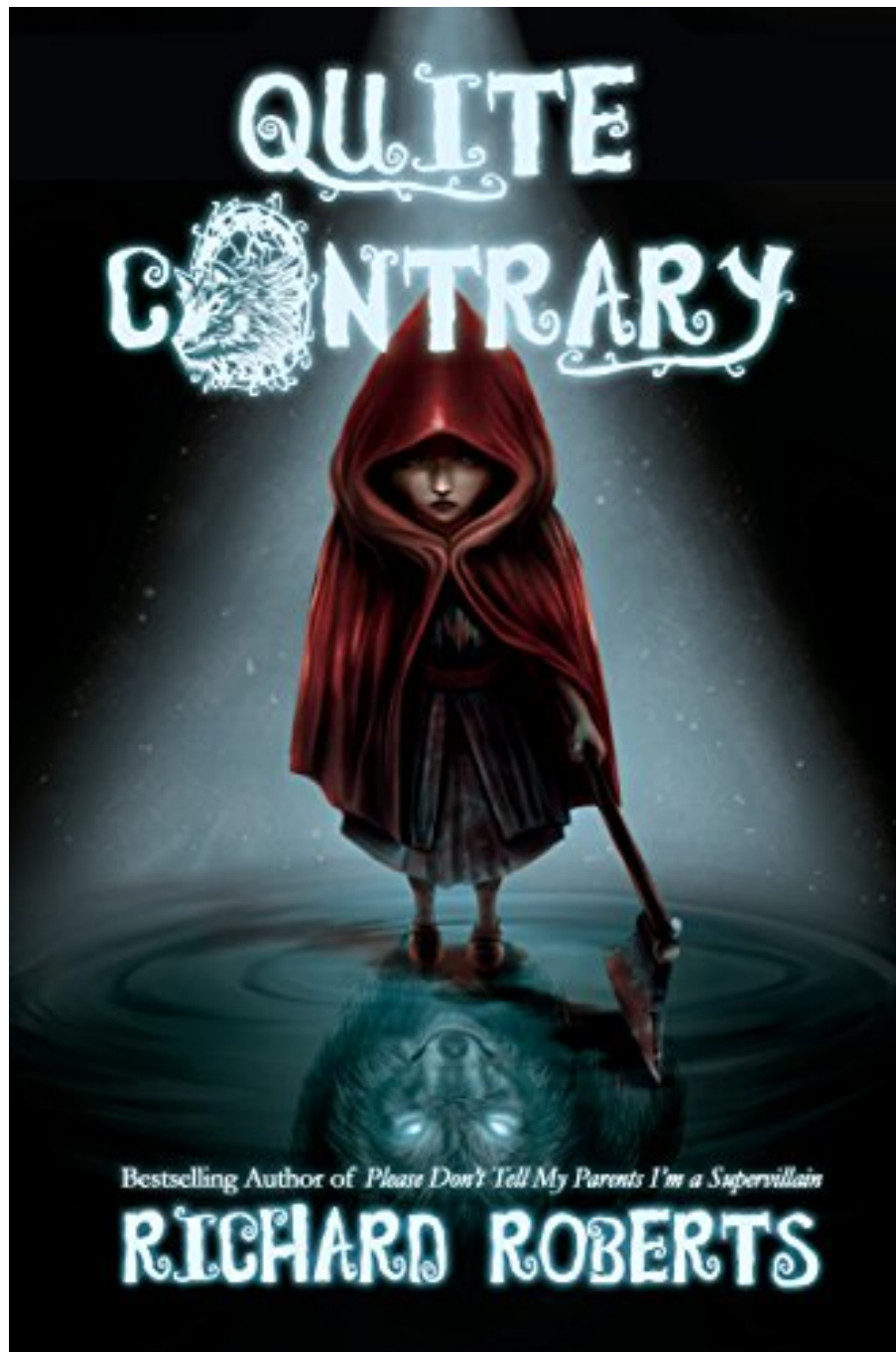


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"The audio and narration were done well." ---AudioBook Reviewer

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Praise for Richard Roberts:

"One thing Richard Roberts does so very well is create an unforgettable character. In this book, he's created a whole crew. Each is so vivid in my mind that I am able to look at the beautiful artwork of the cover and pick out each character by name." ~Laurie Laliberte

About Quite Contrary:

The secret of having an adventure is getting lost. Who ever visited an enchanted kingdom or fell into a fairy tale without wandering into the woods first?

Well, Mary is lost. Mary is lost in the story of Little Red Riding Hood, and that is a cruel and murderous story. She's put on the red hood and met the Wolf. When she gives in to her Wolf's temptations, she will die. That's how the story goes, after all.

Unfortunately for the story and unfortunately for the Wolf, this Little Red Riding Hood is Mary Stuart, and she is the most stubborn and contrary twelve year old the world has ever known.

Forget the Wolf's temptations, forget the advice of the talking rat trying to save her - she will kick her way through every myth and fairy tale ever told until she finds a way to get out of this alive. Her own way, and no one else's.

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Most helpful customer reviews

106 of 109 people found the following review helpful.

Wrong category, marketed wrongly, but brilliant.

By Charlene J. Conlon

Would you call Steven King's *Carrie* a YA novel simply because its protagonist is a teenager? No. *Carrie* is a horror novel, and despite the blurring of the lines drawn between children's literature, YA novels, and books intended for adults that has occurred since J.K. Rowling burst onto the scene, there is a difference. While no longer required to be almost as innocent and pure as children's literature YA novels tend to be more linear, straightforward, and simple than those for adults, as well as less graphic.

Quite Contrary is a horror novel with fairy tale elements. It has a twelve year old protagonist, Mary Stuart, a talking rat companion, and the villain of the piece--the overt villain, I should say, is the Big Bad Wolf--and they don't come bigger or badder than this wolf. I was put in mind of Neil Gaiman's first run of *Sandman* as I read-- partly because of Roberts' immense knowledge of the Lands of Story, the tropes and memes Mary wanders, stumbles, and sometimes charges headlong into, but also the dreamlike quality and vividness of the worlds.

So: if you are considering this book, keep this in mind. It's graphic, complicated, sometimes seems random, the journey doesn't seem to connect up until the end, and it doesn't wrap up with a nice neat little bow and a feel-good ending. Mary is not a nice, likable, plucky heroine. She's much better than that.

61 of 65 people found the following review helpful.

Not what you think it might be, and you won't know till the books close.

By Amazon Customer

For the record, my Husband and I share this account. I do most of the book reviews.

I tend to keep my book reviews short as to not repeat it's summary or give away spoilers.

First: **THIS IS NOT FOR KIDS!** If you've had the "Birds and Bees" chat, then maybe. Read it first yourself though. Just because the main character is 12 does not mean the book focuses on 12 year old issues.

The main character, Mary Stuart, is a complex, willful, and stubborn young lady that has lived far more life in her twelve years than she should have. This book seems at first to be a story of the "the grass is always greener till you get there" variety. What it truly becomes is a look at all the dark little corners of the human psyche, and how we try to trivialize the repeated patterns as fairy tales and stories. It is a book of self-acceptance, finding strength in ones flaw's, forging your own path, and making lemonade out of bad gin.

I relate to the main character, can ya tell? :-P

Great read. I will likely be reading it again later this year.

38 of 39 people found the following review helpful.

My, what unusual characters you have...

By Dave

This is not a fable meant for children. If you took the old Brothers Grimm tales (the ones that served as

morals and lessons instead of happy fairy tales), a few modern horror stories, and enough hardened cynicism to choke a blue whale, this is the book you would end up with. It turns fairy tales on their ears, knows that strangers met in the woods are not kind and gentle, and believes that most problems can be solved with the proper application of a sturdily booted foot.

The main character is crass, sarcastic, mistrustful, foul-mouthed, and violence prone... and these are her endearing qualities. The characters in this story may not be as fleshed or likable out as they could be, some other reviews have had some harsh words to this effect, but they are spectacularly memorable. In the railroaded fashion of all fables, the story is supposed to have an inevitable conclusion and all choices should lead there. Until Mary that is. Because this is the story of someone who doesn't traverse the road less traveled, she leaves the path entirely and lets the story catch up if it can.

While not my favorite work by this author, it is still worth a read.

See all 154 customer reviews...

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