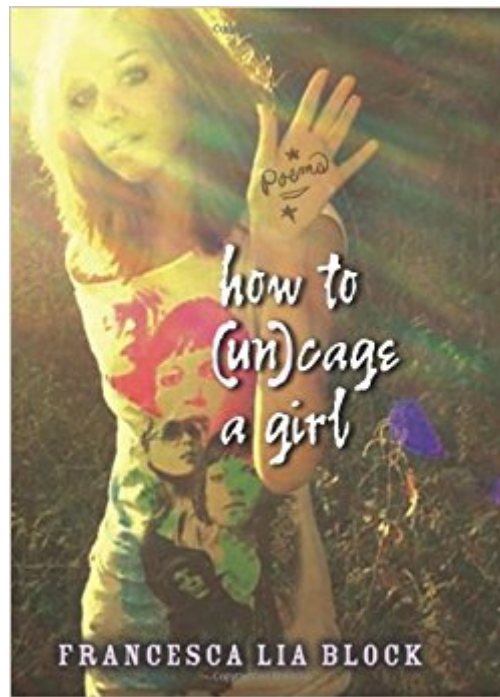


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# How To (Un)cage A Girl



## Synopsis

A celebration of girls and women in a three part poetry collection that is powerful, hopeful, authentic, and universal.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 128 pages

Publisher: HarperTeen (September 16, 2008)

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (14 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #665,943 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #96 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Poetry](#) #314 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Love Poems](#) #1539 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Being a Teen](#)

## Customer Reviews

I was expecting more, I guess? There were a few poems that I loved, especially Forty-Five Thoughts for my Daughter and my Virtual Daughters, but overall, it wasn't my cup of tea. I think, in a way, the title and description implies this is a very YA/teen-specific collection but many of the pop-culture references and just content in general reads more "unsatisfied, middle-aged woman" than "teen." I'm in my mid-twenties and even I was too young to understand some of the references. Not bad, just not what the title and description leads you to believe.

HOW TO UN(CAGE) A GIRL  
FRANCESCA LIA BLOCK  
Rating: 4.5  
Enchantments...choose to believe in your own myth  
your own glamour  
your own spell  
a young woman who does this (even if she is just pretending) has everything.... This is just a taste of what awaits the reader in Francesca Lia Block's new collection of poetry that celebrates the journey of a girl growing up. Block's collection of poems is both powerful and moving. The words flow like magic, hitting a cord on emotions such as loss, growing up, and death of a father to cancer. The theme is universal and the voice is authentic and true. I love Block's poetry. Her poems in this collection touched me; especially the one titled pain is like an onion. Who ever suffered a broken heart can relate with this message. Not all of the poems deal with sad issues. There's also hope. Block talks about believing in yourself and your own

beauty. Not what the world considers beautiful but the beauty that's within. My only complaint is this book ended too soon. This slim poetry collection is a must have for fans of Block and those who love a good poetry book. Francesca Lia Block is the author of many acclaimed and bestselling books, including *WEETZIE BAT*, *DANGEROUS ANGELS*, and *PSYCHE IN A DRESS*. You can find out more about her by visiting her website at [...][KimENCHANTING REVIEWS](#) August 2008

*How to (Un)cage a Girl* by Francesca Lia Block is a collection of poetry full of lush and lavish imagery. It reads almost like a memoir, an open letter to her friends, her children, and her many fans. I don't know enough about Block's life or history to know how much of these poems are confessional. It doesn't matter. The messages, if they are based on her individual experience, have a resonance. Any young girl struggling with body image will understand the narrator's anorexia even if the reader hasn't starved herself for beauty's sake. I can't imagine any girl growing up in our nation not being compromised by body image issues. If there is any doubt about why Block has a huge cadre of fans, reading this book will settle some of the misgivings to rest. Whether the poetry style appeals or not, the messages are ones that only an oblivious or vicious person would not agree is beneficial to young readers.

I wish more school libraries made Francesca Lia Block available to students. While her work may not be appropriate for younger students, middle and high school students would definitely benefit from reading her works. Her vivid imagery and active verbs are excellent examples to use in language arts class, and the subject matter is something that girls can relate to.

If you were ever a young girl, growing up through adolescence, this book is for you. Francesca Lia Block lyrically address the ups and downs of being a teenager, and the things that we think about at that age. Some lives are broken, and some lives glitter, but every girl should know they have a voice. This book is one voice among the masses. If you adore Francesca, you know this has to be fantastic. I love Francesca Lia Block, so really a book of poems about adolescence was a no-brainer for me to pick up. This one definitely did not disappoint. I had read it a few years ago when it first came out, and recently picked it up again to share at our libraries Poetry Night. All of Francesca's early works were written in the same seamless prose as these poems are, so it was such a joy reading these. I just love the magical world that Francesca Lia Block creates within our regular day-to-day lives. Some of these poems are heartbreaking, others uplifting, all of them are beautiful. I loved the poem 'forty-five thoughts for my daughter and my virtual daughters' I think it represents

exactly what I hope every young girl gets to know. This poem starts:"i always believed if i had blond hair, pixie face, big breastseverything would be all rightnot realizing that culturally idolized beautyis not only foolproofbut potentially dangerous"I think this is a great little book to give as a gift, for yourself or for that young girl in your life.First Line:"i thought my teacher was a nazi"Favorite Line:"yxta and francesca decided to start a cliquefor frail but surprisingly strong fairies who had lost their way above groundfor burned mermaids and sick vampire girlsfor wild wolfish women with sharp teeth and leaves in their hair"

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