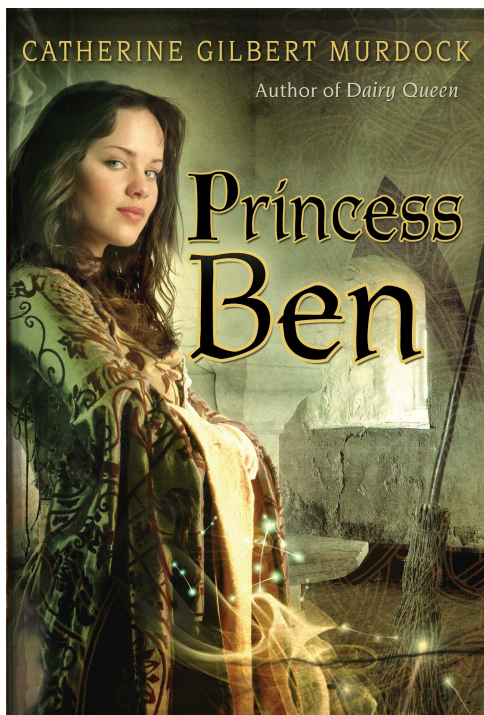


News from Houghton Mifflin Books for Children
For Immediate Release

New from Catherine Gilbert Murdock:

PRINCESS BEN

A Fairy Tale for the Modern Princess



Benevolence is not your typical princess, and *Princess Ben* (Houghton Mifflin, \$16.00, May 2008) is certainly not your typical fairy tale. But who would expect typical from the award-winning and best-selling author Catherine Gilbert Murdock, creator of the sensational young adult novels *Dairy Queen* (2006) and *The Off Season* (2007)? After all, this is the author who gave us D.J. Schwenk, the fifteen-year-old girl from Wisconsin who defied all expectations and made it on to her all-male high school football team.

Catherine Gilbert Murdock has “always loved fairy tales, and writers’ endless reworking of fairy tales” and finds that the “tweaking reveals what really matters in the story.” It was this fascination that led to the creation of *Princess Ben*, which tells the story of Benevolence, sole heir to the kingdom of Montagne. When her parents are lost to unknown assassins, she finds herself under the thumb of the conniving Queen Sophia, who is intent on marrying her off as soon as possible. While locked high

in a tower, Ben stumbles onto an enchanted room, where she begins her secret education in the magical arts. Her endeavors are soon cut short by a very real and mortal threat that faces the castle and the entire kingdom. In the spirit of Gail Carson Levine’s *Fairest* and William Goldman’s *The Princess Bride*, *Princess Ben* is refreshing new fractured fairy tale that will be welcomed by fantasy lovers everywhere.

—more—



Catherine Gilbert Murdock burst on to the scene of young adult literature with her debut novel, *Dairy Queen*, winner of the Borders Original Voices Award, the 2007 Midwest Booksellers Choice Award, and the 2007 Great Lakes Booksellers Children's Literature Award. Reviewers, booksellers, and readers from across the country embraced Murdock's main character, D.J. Schwenk, rejoicing in her refreshing honesty, wit, and, most of all, determination to do something different. *Dairy Queen's* sequel, *The Off Season*, soon followed and met with the same success, prompting e-mails from teens celebrating the return of D.J. and thanking Murdock for creating someone to whom they could relate.

Catherine Gilbert Murdock and her sister, the best-selling novelist Elizabeth Gilbert, grew up on a tiny farm in Connecticut. She now lives outside of Philadelphia with her husband and two children, where she is hard at work on a third book starring D.J. Schwenk. Please visit Ms. Murdock's website, www.catherinemurdock.com, for more information about the author, including glimpses of her work in progress, discussion questions for readers, an up-to-date appearance schedule, and playlists of songs that kept her going while writing.

Princess Ben • written by Catherine Gilbert Murdock • May 2008
Ages 12 and up • Grades 7 and up • 368 Pages
978-0-618-9597106 • Fiction • \$16.00