

Children's Literature Reviews

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Chocolatina*Erik Kraft ; Illustrated by Denise Brunkus*

Cartwheel Books/Scholastic, \$5.99. 2008 (orig. 1998)

Reviews:**Gwynne Spencer (Children's Literature)**

Tina loves chocolate. She eats more than her share of it. When her mean teacher, Mrs. Ferdman, makes all the kids repeat "You are what you eat!," Tina (a.k.a. Chocolatina) responds, "I wish that were true." That very night, guess who turns into a chocolate girl, all stiff and prone to melty feet? The teacher attacks Chocolatina, trying to bite off her ear (is this cannibalism?). Justice prevails: the teacher's assault is prevented by the timely appearance of the school principal, and Mrs. Ferdman is banished from the school. Chocolatina is on the verge of character change. That evening at home, Tina wishes to be her old self and vows to give up chocolate. She gets back her old self, but really does not reform, as it turns out. However, the banished teacher does turn into chocolate. A sheet of scratch-and-sniff stickers in the front of the book are remarkably unsniffy, but the artwork is lively and funny (Denise Brunkus is the illustrator for the Junie B. Jones series) and fits nicely with *Chocolate Touch* and *Chocolate Fever* in the "excessive consumption" category. 2008 (orig. 1998), Cartwheel Books/Scholastic, \$5.99. Ages 4 to 8.

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