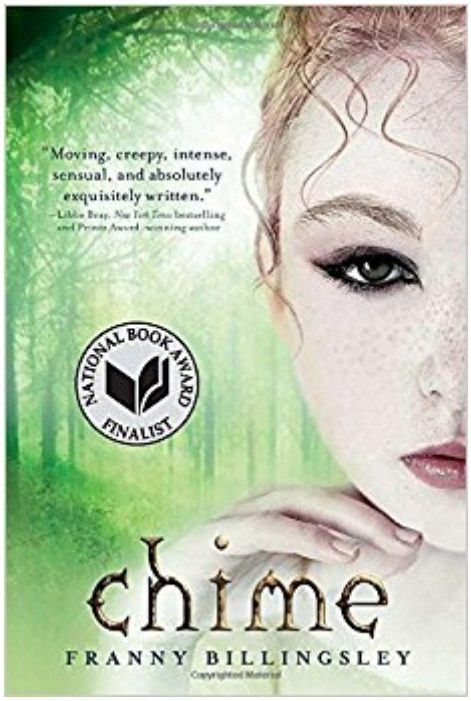
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Synopsis

"Part mystery, part fantasy, this beautifully-written page turner explores guilt, mercy, and love."Ã¢â ¬â •New York TimesÃ Â bestselling authorÃ Â Holly BlackBriony has a secret. It is a secret that killed her stepmother, ruined her sister's mind, and will end her life, if anyone were to know. She has powers. Then Eldric comes along with his golden lion eyes and a great mane of tawny hair. He is as natural as the sun, and he treats her as if she is extraordinary. And everything starts to change . . .A National Book Award FinalistÃ Â Ã¢Ëœâ | Ã¢â ¬Å“Exquisite to the final word.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Booklist, starred reviewÃ¢Ëœâ | Ã¢â ¬Å“Both lushly sensual and shivery.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •School Library Journal, starred review

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Starred Review Since her stepmother's recent death, 17-year-old Briony Larkin knows that if she can keep two secrets--that she is a witch and that she is responsible for the accident that left Rose, her identical twin, mentally compromised--and remember to hate herself always, no other harm will befall her family in their Swampsea parsonage at the beginning of the twentieth century. The arrival of Mr. Clayborne, a city engineer, and his university-dropout son, Eldric, makes Briony's task difficult. Clayborne's plan to drain the swamp has made the Old Ones unhappy, particularly the Boggy Mun, who has plagued the village's children with swamp cough in retaliation. When Rose's

lingering illness turns into a cough, Briony knows that she must do whatever it takes, even revealing her secrets, to save her sister. While thwarting the advances of an arsenic-addicted suitor, Briony must also deny her feelings for Eldric, even as he helps her solve the puzzle that has become her life. Exploring the powers of guilt and redemption, Billingsley (The Folk Keeper, 1999) has crafted a dark, chilling yet stunning world. Briony's many mysteries and occasional sardonic wit make her a force to be reckoned with. Exquisite to the final word. Grades 8-12. --Angela Leeper --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A National Book Award Finalist"Part mystery, part fantasy, this beautifully-written page turner explores guilt, mercy, and love."Ã¢â ¬â •New York Times bestselling authorÃ Â Holly BlackÃ¢Ëœâ | Ã¢â ¬Å“A darkly beguiling fantasy.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Publishers Weekly, starred reviewÃ¢Ëœâ | "Billingsley takes the time to develop a layered narrative adorned with linguistic filigreeÃ¢â ¬â •she is one of the great prose stylists of the field.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Kirkus Reviews, starred reviewÃ¢Ëœâ | Ã¢â ¬Å“Exquisite to the final word.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Booklist, starred reviewÃ¢Ëœâ | Ã¢â ¬Å“Both lushly sensual and shivery.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •School Library Journal, starred reviewÃ¢Ëœâ | Ã¢â ¬Å“Extraordinary and moving.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •BCCB, starred reviewÃ¢Ëœâ | Ã¢â ¬Å“An entirely original concoction.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •The Horn Book, starred review

This book was provided to me as an audiobook by the library, because the library is awesome.Hear me now and know these words I type are true: This. Book. Is. Awesome.The Chosen One. ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a common device in the world of fantasy books. While it can be a great tool in the hands of a thoughtful author, after a while one wants something different. Chime is something different. Briony Larkin is, without a doubt, something different. Briony is far and away one of the most engaging and relatable characters I have ever read. Her sister Rose and love interest Eldric are right up there with her. IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve always smirked at girls talking about ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“book boyfriendsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•, but I kind of get it now. These characters are in my head and in my heart. The story is enthralling, twisty, and gives away everything and nothing at the same time. The moment I thought I had it all worked out, there was a new element that I never saw coming. So good!The audiobook narration by Susan Duerden, was very well done. Ms. Duerden does an excellent job of conveying the charactersÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ emotions. The tonal differentiation between the characters was so well done that I knew which character was speaking without any additional explanation. I look forward to listening to any book narrated by Ms. Duerden.I

recommend Chime to anyone over the age of 14. Some scenes might be considered scary to more sensitive readers. There is some alcohol consumption, talk of drug use (arsenic), and poisoning (arsenic), but there is only vague mention of sex.

Brilliantly evocative dialogue, suspenseful, super appropriate character development for 14-17 YA reader. Caught in a magical world, the reader is suspended between what is real, and what is contrived, finally discovering the course tragic deprivation has .etched on Briony's psyche. Amazing turns of phrase and colorful language

4.5 Stars (I just can't quite let it round up to 5). Really fun, interesting, well-written book. It has a lyrical quality to the writing that was wonderful and clever all at the same time, although the same element meant that at a few critical points, I wasn't entirely sure what was going on.It's the story of a seventeen-year-old girl set in an alternate-reality 1920ish rural England. The setting (a swamp) was wonderful and the fantasy elements brought to mind Irish lore (Boggy creatures, brownies, crazy witches). The heroine is a preacher's daughter who is trying to stop her mildly-autistic twin sister from dying of the swap cough by destroying plans to drain the swamp (thus appeasing the creature of the swamp who are inflicting the town with the cough) all while a romance simmers between her and a recently arrived artist.I realized pretty early on that the heroine (Briony Larkin) was an unreliable narrator. She has a very skewed world view based on her history of using witchy powers to main and kill. She loathes herself and believes she is abnormal and unlikeable. Being in her head is like looking at her world (especially other people) through really thick green glasses. But I was aware the glasses were there, so I could make guesses as to what the world REALLY looked like - and that was fun!The secondary characters that Briony felt strongly about were wonderfully drawn and unique. I loved her twin sister (so well done), her love interests, her competitor, Tiddy Rex (a kid she's friend with), even her brownie, and Mucky Face (the river creature). However, the characters that Briony didn't feel strongly about were almost blank canvases (especially her father). And while this perhaps was intentional (perhaps), I didn't like it. I wanted a better feel for her father and Mr. Claybourne and Robert and Boggy Mun and the Chime Child. I had a hard time even getting a firm picture of them in in my head.I did manage to figure out the biggest of the story questions, but there were lots of twists and turns along the way that took me by surprise. I never did understand the significance of the girls' names - and still want to.The voice is different than what's popular in YA right now, but I'd still recommend it for older readers (there's a bit of bawdy talk that my tween daughter wouldn't be comfortable reading). What a totally different, totally fun read.

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