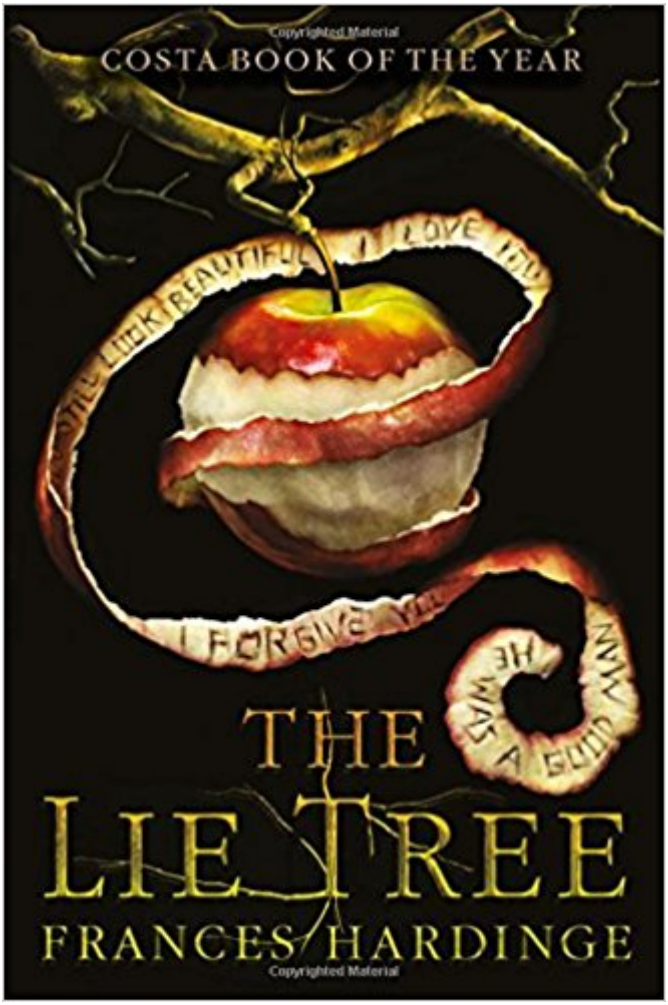
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The Lie Tree



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Synopsis

Read this thought-provoking, critically acclaimed novel (6 starred reviews!!!) from Frances Hardinge, winner of the Costa Book of the Year, Costa Children's Book Award, and Horn Book-Boston Globe Award. Faith Sunderly leads a double life. To most people, she is reliable, dull, trustworthyÃ¢â ¬â •a proper young lady who knows her place as inferior to men. But inside, Faith is full of questions and curiosity, and she cannot resist mysteries: an unattended envelope, an unlocked door. She knows secrets no one suspects her of knowing. She knows that her family moved to the close-knit island of Vane because her famous scientist father was fleeing a reputation-destroying scandal. And she knows, when her father is discovered dead shortly thereafter, that he was murdered.Ã Â In pursuit of justice and revenge, Faith hunts through her fatherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s possessions and discovers a strange tree. The tree bears fruit only when she whispers a lie to it. The fruit of the tree, when eaten, delivers a hidden truth. The tree might hold the key to her fatherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s murderÃ¢â ¬â •or it may lure the murderer directly to Faith herself. Frances Hardinge is the author of many acclaimed novels, including Cuckoo Song, which earned five starred reviews.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 7 UpÃ¢â ¬â •In a time when a young woman’s exterior life can be stifling and dull, Faith Sunderly’s interior life is cavernous. She has a sharp mind; a keen interest in the scientific research that has made her father, the formidable Reverend Sunderly, famous; and an irresistible impulse for sneaking, spying, and skulking around. Faith’s curiosity about the world around her, which she must

keep hidden, is a source of personal shame and the one thing about herself she longs for people, especially her father, to notice. When the Reverend is invited to take part in an archaeological dig on the insular island community of Vane, the whole family packs up and moves with him. It doesn't take long for Faith to suspect there are darker reasons the family left London in such a hurry, and just as she's starting to put things together, her father is found dead. Setting out to prove her father's death was a murder, Faith uncovers a web of secrets the Reverend has been keeping, all centered on one of his specimensÃ¢â ¬â •a small tree that thrives on lies and bears a fruit that tells the truth. Faith believes she can use the tree to find her father's killer and begins feeding it lies. As the tree grows, so do Faith's lies and her fevered obsession with finding out the truth. Hardinge, who can turn a phrase like no other, melds a haunting historical mystery with a sharp observation on the dangers of suppressing the thirst for knowledge, and leaves readers to wonder where science ends and fantasy begins. VERDICT Smart, feminist, and shadowy, Hardinge's talents are on full display here.Ã¢â ¬â •Beth McIntyre, Madison Public Library, WI

Ã¢â ¬Å“Over the last decade or so, Frances Hardinge has joined the ranks of those writers of young-adult fiction, like Philip Pullman, whose approach to fantasy proves so compelling that they quickly develop an adult following, and The Lie Tree is a good demonstration of why this is soÃ¢â ¬Â¦ ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s a rather stunning page-turner of a performance, and an excellent introduction to HardingeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s increasingly important body of work.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Locus)"In 19th-century Britain, the study of natural history was reserved for gentlemen. Unlucky enough to be born female, science-minded Faith, the heroine of this dark and captivating period novel, can't hope to follow in her naturalist father's footsteps. Yet when those footsteps lead to his suspicious death, Faith turns her "weakness" into an advantage. Underestimated by everyone, from her father's colleagues to the servants to her own mother, she embarks on an investigation that propels her into the scandal that ruined her father's reputation and entices her to adopt his morally questionable research methods."The Lie Tree" shares the rich, cerebral atmosphere and feminist bent of Andrea Barrett's history-of-science-inspired fiction for adults, weaving it all together with gossamer fairy-tale thread. The book's title refers to a plant Ã¢â ¬â • Faith's father's secret discovery Ã¢â ¬â • that withers in the light and feeds off of lies. Faith believes that reason and logic must hold the explanation to the Lie Tree's puzzling attributes, since, for her, "'magic' was not an answer; it was an excuse to avoid looking for one." Nonetheless, she can't deny that when she whispers untruths into its leaves, things happen: Both the plant and Faith's covert power start to grow.Hardinge's gorgeous

descriptive language is charged with menace and meaning. Lying in bed one night, Faith imagines "her lie spreading silently like dark green smoke, filling the air around the house like a haze, spilling from the mouths of those who whispered and wondered and feared Ã¢â ¬Â¦ soaking like mist into waiting leaves, seeping like sap down gnarled slender stems, and forcing itself out into a small, white spearhead of a bud." "The Lie Tree" is a murder mystery that dazzles at every level, shimmering all the more brightly the deeper down into it you go." (Christine Heppermann Chicago Tribune)**STARRED REVIEW** "Hardinge, who can turn a phrase like no other, melds a haunting historical mystery with a sharp observation on the dangers of suppressing the thirst for knowledge, and leaves readers to wonder where science ends and fantasy begins... Smart, feminist, and shadowy, HardingeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s talents are on full display here." (School Library Journal)**STARRED REVIEW** "Mystery, magic, religion, and feminism swirl together in Hardinge's latest heady concoction...Ã Â Hardinge creates a fierce, unlikable heroine navigating a rapidly changing world and does it all with consummate skill and pitch-perfect prose, drawing readers into Faith's world and onto her side and ultimately saying quite a lot about the world. Thematically rich, stylistically impressive, absolutely unforgettable." (Kirkus)**STARRED REVIEW** "HardingeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s characteristically rich writing is on full displayÃ¢â ¬â •alternately excoriating, haunting, and darkly funnyÃ¢â ¬â •and the novel also features complex, many-sided characters and a clear-eyed examination of the deep sexism of the period, which trapped even the most intelligent women in roles as restrictive as their corsets." (Publisher's Weekly)**STARRED REVIEW** "There is an effortless beauty to HardingeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s writing, which ranges from frank to profound. Though layered,Ã Â the plot refuses to sag, driven as it is by mystery, taut atmosphere, complex characters, and FaithÃ¢â ¬â„¢sÃ Â insatiable curiosity...Ã Â It is a book in which no details are wasted and each chapter brings a new surprise. ReadersÃ Â of historical fiction, mystery, and fantasy will all be captivated by this wonderfully crafted novel and theÃ Â many secrets hidden within its pages." (Booklist)**STARRED REVIEW** Ã¢â ¬Å“The elements of the mystery are masterfully keyed to the concerns of the Victorian time period, and its unfolding is handled with a dexterity that never loses sight of the gender problem; the book also directs its light onto matters of faith and doubt, and the issue of lies and truth in the pursuit of science. The excitement and danger, coupled with FaithÃ¢â ¬â„¢s intrepid though morally flawed pursuit of justice, call to mind HardingeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Fly by Night (BCCB 9/06); give this to readers unafraid to think disquieting thoughts as they race through a breathtaking, action-packed adventure.Ã¢â ¬Â• (BCCB)**STARRED REVIEW** "Everything in this audacious novel is on the cusp or in limbo, setting up delicious tensions and thematic riches. The time is nineteenth-century England just after

DarwinÃ¢â ¬â„¢s theory of evolution has thrown the scientific world into turmoil; the setting is the fictional island of Vane, between land and sea; the mainÃ Â character is a fourteen-year-old girl caught between societyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s expectations and her fierce desire to be a scientist... Hardinge maintains masterful control of the whole complex construct: everything from the sentence level on up to the larger philosophical and political questions. A stunner." (The Horn Book)Ã¢â ¬Å“Some of the most beloved science-fiction and fantasy writers, from Madeleine L'Engle to Philip Pullman, began as young-adult authors whose fiction proved so compelling that adult readers embraced it as well, ignoring the line that supposedly separates these audiences. One of the latest such writers is Frances Hardinge.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Chicago Tribune)

It is a bit cliche to make the battle between science and religion as such, BUT, Hardinge is a brilliant writer, and she makes it work.Her writing, as ever, is brilliant - it’s full and rich and incredibly beautiful. I liked the main character, Faith. She’s a girl in an oppressive society who finds ways to battle with her inner sense of right and wrong and doggedly solves the mystery. I found the whole book to be a page turner -- I had a hard time putting it down. The mystery was well done, and the somewhat gothic, creepy, Victorian setting was perfect for Hardinge’s particular flavor of tale spinning. Post mortem photos! Phrenology! Patriarchy! Burgeoning Natural Science study by gentlemen scientists!I did guess the ’whodunit’ before the end because I remembered a key clue, but that didn’t detract from the overall story. I found the characters complex and very interesting. The ending was satisfying, and the relationship between mother and daughter more promising than it had been at first. I do wish we had Howard, Faith’s little brother, in the closing scene. He must be there, but he is notably absent from the description. I wonder if this was intentional, but I loved his character so much, I missed him at the end.I really enjoyed it overall, and anxiously await whatever Hardinge delivers up next.

IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢d seen a flurry of articles about Frances Hardinge online, and was intrigued by the woman who wears a fedora for its sense of adventure. SheÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a master storyteller: her writing in The Lie Tree is utterly captivating, the plot is surprising, and the themes are big and importantÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •everything we bookworms hope a book could be.It was the 2016 Costa Book of the YearThe protagonist Faith, 14 and stuck in a ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Ëœtraining corsetÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢, grapples with heady topics: societal conventions and limitations on women, the discovery of the flaws in her fatherÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s character, the clash of science and religion in Victorian England, and the mob mentality of people. Big ideas, fresh characters, and

lovely writing made this one deliciously memorable.

Wow, I really, really enjoyed this one!I wasn't sure what to expect, but I thought the main character, Faith, ,was extremely interesting an relatable. I loved the issues of being a female and a child during the time period, and the complicated relationships between family. I thought Faith's complex feelings towards her mother and father were terribly realistic, and I really enjoyed seeing those evolve over the course of the novel. The mystery of the book was super interesting, especially with the mystical addition of the lie tree. So awful and amazing watching Faith spin lies in the name of vengeance, seeing those lies take on a life of their own, and watching Faith come to terms with the repercussions of what she'd set in motion.Overall a well-written and gripping novel that kept me interested throughout. Definitely plan on looking into more of Hardinge's work.

The Lie Tree is a wonderfully imagined novel with one of the most engaging heroines in the YA genre. The Reverend Erasmus Sunderly has fled, family in tow, to the remote island of Vane to escape the consequences of a mysterious scandal. Daughter of the house, teen-aged Faith Sunderly, must find out why, no matter the cost. Thus begins a tale of intrigue, murder and deceit that will catch and keep your attention until the last word.

While clearly accessible to teens, this book is enjoyable for everyone. There's lot to like - evolutionary science and its politics in the Victorian age, the secret lives of women and girls during that period, a little magical realism and allegory, and an engaging mystery. Teens looking for a little more substance and something different than the slew of I-have-a-dying-friend-and/or-how-will-we-make-it-through-this-dystopian-world novels should read this book.

This is a completely terrific, totally absorbing novel. Don't miss it. Faith is a hero like no other you've met.

The descriptive imagery caught me first, then the characters and the plot . The details of the restrictions placed upon women in the mid Victorian age were well portrayed. A little bit of the supernatural allows for discussion of several moral dilemmas. A book for young adults and adults.

This book was amazing! I love how it all took place in this really small rural town. The views of

women in this book was very surprising I wasn't expecting it. I was drawn in right away and was blindsided in the end! I have recommended this book to all my family members and friends already! So I recommend it to all readers!

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