

the lie tree book

The Lie Tree Book: An In-Depth Exploration of the Award-Winning Novel

The Lie Tree book is a captivating work of fiction that has garnered critical acclaim and captured the imagination of readers worldwide. Authored by Frances Hardinge, this novel intricately blends elements of mystery, fantasy, and Victorian-era exploration to create a compelling narrative that delves into themes of truth, lies, science, and morality. First published in 2015, *The Lie Tree* has become a significant fixture in contemporary children's literature, earning prestigious awards and inspiring discussions about the power of storytelling and the nature of truth.

This article aims to provide a comprehensive overview of *The Lie Tree* book, exploring its plot, themes, characters, critical reception, and why it remains a must-read for fans of literary fiction and young adult novels alike. Whether you're a seasoned reader, a parent seeking engaging books for your children, or a literary enthusiast interested in Victorian mysteries, this guide will serve as an invaluable resource.

Overview of The Lie Tree Book

Publication Details and Background

The Lie Tree was published by Macmillan in 2015 and is classified as a young adult or middle-grade novel, though its sophisticated themes appeal to a broad age range. Frances Hardinge, an acclaimed British author, is known for her inventive storytelling and lush, poetic prose. Prior to *The Lie Tree*, Hardinge had already established her reputation with novels like *Gullstruck Island* and *The Lost Conspiracy*, but this book marked a significant milestone, winning the 2015 Costa Book of the Year award—an unusual feat for a children's or YA novel.

The novel is set firmly within the Victorian era, a period marked by scientific discovery, social change, and a fascination with the unknown. Hardinge's meticulous research and attention to historical detail lend authenticity and depth to the story, immersing readers in a world where science and superstition collide.

Plot Summary

At its core, *The Lie Tree* tells the story of Faith Sunderly, a young girl living in 19th-century England. Following her father's mysterious death, Faith embarks on a journey to uncover the truth behind his demise and the secrets he kept. The narrative is driven by Faith's discovery of a peculiar, mysterious tree—the Lie Tree—which possesses the power to reveal truths through lies.

The plot unfolds with a blend of suspense and intrigue:

- Faith, feeling isolated and misunderstood, becomes increasingly curious about her father's work as a scientist and naturalist.
- She learns about the Lie Tree, a rare and magical plant that feeds on lies and grows stronger with each falsehood told.
- As Faith begins to use the Lie Tree to uncover secrets, she faces moral dilemmas about truth and deception.
- The story explores her internal conflicts as she navigates Victorian societal expectations, her desire for justice, and her understanding of morality.

Throughout the novel, Faith's investigative journey is intertwined with themes of corruption, power, and the nature of truth, culminating in revelations that challenge her perceptions and the reader's understanding of honesty.

Major Themes and Messages in The Lie Tree Book

Truth and Lies

Central to *The Lie Tree* is the complex relationship between truth and deception. The novel posits that lies can sometimes serve as a tool for uncovering deeper truths, especially when conventional avenues are blocked or suppressed. Faith's use of the Lie Tree exemplifies this paradox, illustrating that sometimes, lies are necessary to reveal uncomfortable realities.

The story encourages readers to consider:

- When is lying justified?
- Can deception serve a higher moral purpose?
- How do lies shape our understanding of reality?

Science and Rationality

Set against the Victorian backdrop, the novel celebrates scientific curiosity and skepticism. Faith's fascination with natural history and her father's scientific pursuits highlight the period's burgeoning interest in empirical evidence and discovery.

Themes include:

- The importance of scientific inquiry
- Challenging superstition and dogma
- The conflict between faith and reason

Gender Roles and Society

The Lie Tree also explores Victorian gender expectations and the limitations imposed on women and girls. Faith's experiences reflect the societal constraints of her time, as she navigates a male-dominated world and challenges traditional gender roles by asserting her intelligence and independence.

Discussion points include:

- The role of women in Victorian society
- Female empowerment through knowledge and curiosity
- The struggle for autonomy and voice

Morality and Ethics

Throughout her journey, Faith grapples with moral questions about honesty, justice, and the consequences of her actions. The novel prompts readers to reflect on ethical dilemmas and the gray areas between right and wrong.

Key considerations:

- Is it ever acceptable to lie?
- How do personal motives influence moral choices?
- The impact of secrets and revelations on individuals and society

Characters in The Lie Tree Book

Faith Sunderly

The protagonist, Faith, is a curious, intelligent, and brave young girl. Her quest for truth drives the narrative, and her character development explores themes of independence and moral integrity. Faith's resilience in the face of societal expectations makes her an inspiring heroine.

Sir Richard Sunderly

Faith's father, a naturalist and scientist, whose mysterious death sparks the story. His secretive nature and scientific pursuits serve as catalysts for Faith's investigation.

Mrs. Sunderly

Faith's mother, a woman navigating her own societal constraints, offers a contrasting perspective to Faith's curiosity. Her character explores themes of motherhood, obedience, and societal expectations.

Other Supporting Characters

- Mr. Nettle, Faith's friend and confidant
- Reverend Erasmus, a clergyman with his own secrets
- Thomas, Faith's brother, representing Victorian masculinity

These characters enrich the narrative, providing diverse viewpoints and contributing to the novel's themes of truth, morality, and societal critique.

Critical Reception and Awards

The Lie Tree book received widespread acclaim from critics and readers alike. Its compelling storytelling, rich historical detail, and thought-provoking themes earned it numerous accolades, including:

- The Costa Book of the Year Award (2015)
- The Waterstones Book of the Year
- Multiple starred reviews from literary publications

Reviewers praised Frances Hardinge's masterful prose, her ability to blend dark themes with engaging storytelling, and her skill in creating complex, memorable characters. The novel's exploration of morality and truth resonated with both young and adult audiences, making it a standout in contemporary literature.

Why You Should Read The Lie Tree Book

If you're contemplating whether to pick up The Lie Tree, here are compelling reasons:

- It offers a gripping Victorian mystery infused with fantasy elements.
- The novel encourages critical thinking about morality, truth, and deception.
- It features a strong, intelligent young protagonist who challenges societal norms.
- Its richly detailed historical setting provides educational value.
- The book's layered themes appeal to readers of all ages, prompting meaningful reflection.

Where to Find The Lie Tree Book

The Lie Tree is widely available in bookstores, online retailers, and libraries. It is available in various formats:

- Hardcover and paperback editions
- E-book versions compatible with Kindle, Nook, and other devices
- Audiobook options for on-the-go listening

Given its popularity, it is accessible for most readers interested in historical mysteries, fantasy, or young adult fiction.

Conclusion: The Enduring Impact of The Lie Tree Book

The Lie Tree stands out as a thought-provoking and beautifully written novel that challenges perceptions of truth and morality. Frances Hardinge's skillful storytelling, combined with her meticulous historical research, creates an immersive experience that captivates readers and stimulates intellectual curiosity.

Whether exploring themes of scientific discovery, societal expectations, or the moral ambiguities of lying, the novel remains relevant and engaging. Its awards and positive reviews underscore its significance in modern literature, making it a must-read for anyone interested in stories that combine mystery, fantasy, and social critique.

If you haven't yet experienced The Lie Tree, now is the perfect time to delve into its mysterious branches and uncover the truths hidden beneath its leaves.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'The Lie Tree' by Frances Hardinge?

The novel explores themes of truth, deception, and the pursuit of knowledge, set against a backdrop of Victorian society and the supernatural.

Who is the protagonist in 'The Lie Tree' and what motivates her?

The protagonist is Faith Sunderly, a curious and intelligent girl driven by a desire to uncover the truth about her father's mysterious death and the secrets hidden within her family.

How does 'The Lie Tree' blend elements of mystery and fantasy?

The book combines Victorian mystery with supernatural elements, such as a mystical tree that feeds on lies and reveals hidden truths, creating a dark fantasy atmosphere.

What awards or recognition has 'The Lie Tree' received?

Frances Hardinge's 'The Lie Tree' won the Costa Book of the Year award in 2015, highlighting its critical acclaim and popularity.

Is 'The Lie Tree' suitable for young adult readers?

Yes, the novel is targeted at young adult readers, featuring complex themes and dark, atmospheric storytelling suitable for teenagers and older readers.

What is the significance of the lie tree in the story?

The lie tree symbolizes the power and danger of secrets and deception, as it reveals hidden truths but also entangles characters in moral and ethical dilemmas.

Additional Resources

The Lie Tree: An Enigmatic and Thought-Provoking Novel by Frances Hardinge

Introduction: Unveiling the Mystery of The Lie Tree

Frances Hardinge's *The Lie Tree* stands out as a masterful blend of historical fiction, gothic mystery, and philosophical inquiry. Published in 2015, this novel has garnered critical acclaim for its intricate plotting, richly developed characters, and thematic depth. Combining elements of Victorian-era intrigue with supernatural undertones, *The Lie Tree* explores profound questions about truth, lies, faith, and the pursuit of knowledge. This review delves into the many facets that make *The Lie Tree* a compelling read, from its thematic complexity to its literary craftsmanship.

Plot Overview: A Gripping Tale Rooted in Secrets and Deception

At its core, *The Lie Tree* follows the story of Faith Sunderly, a teenage girl living in Victorian England. Her father, the Reverend Erasmus Sunderly, is a renowned scientist whose sudden and mysterious death sparks a series of questions. Faith's journey begins as she uncovers her father's secret experiments and the hidden truths behind his death, which ultimately leads her into a world of lies and revelations.

Major plot points include:

- Faith's discovery of her father's scientific journal and the strange, supernatural "lie tree."
- The tree's unique ability to produce truths in the form of lies, which Faith learns to manipulate.
- Her interactions with local villagers, intellectuals, and her own family, each harboring secrets.
- The moral dilemmas Faith faces when navigating the treacherous landscape of Victorian society's expectations and her own quest for truth.

The narrative weaves these elements into a suspenseful story that continuously challenges perceptions of honesty and deception.

Thematic Depth and Philosophical Underpinnings

1. The Nature of Truth and Lies

Hardinge's novel interrogates the complex relationship between truth and lies. The "lie tree" itself is a potent metaphor for how lies can sometimes reveal hidden truths. The novel posits that:

- Lies are not merely falsehoods but can serve as tools for uncovering deeper realities.
- Truth, especially in a society obsessed with reputation and appearances, is often elusive and layered.
- The act of lying, when wielded ethically, might be a necessary step toward understanding or justice.

2. Victorian Society and Scientific Inquiry

Set against the backdrop of Victorian England—a period marked by scientific discovery and societal rigidity—the novel explores:

- The tension between faith and reason, particularly through Faith's scientific pursuits versus her community's religious beliefs.
- The suppression of women's intellectual agency, depicted through Faith's struggle to have her voice heard.
- The societal obsession with reputation, morality, and the moral codes that constrain individual freedom.

3. Gender Roles and Feminism

Faith's character embodies a challenge to traditional gender expectations:

- Her curiosity, intelligence, and independence defy Victorian norms that relegated women to domestic roles.
- The novel subtly critiques the limitations placed on women in scientific and intellectual fields.
- Faith's journey is also a metaphor for female empowerment and the importance of questioning societal authority.

4. Morality and Ethical Ambiguity

Throughout the novel, characters grapple with ethical dilemmas:

- Whether deception can be justified if it leads to greater truth or justice.
- The consequences of unearthing uncomfortable truths.
- The moral cost of pursuing knowledge at all costs.

Literary Style and Craftsmanship

Hardinge's prose is both evocative and precise, capturing the Victorian atmosphere while maintaining accessibility for contemporary readers. Her language is rich without being overwrought, and her descriptions vividly paint settings—from the gloomy ancestral estate to the bustling village.

Narrative Technique:

- The novel employs a third-person limited point of view centered on Faith, allowing readers to

closely follow her thoughts and moral struggles.

- The pacing is carefully calibrated, alternating moments of introspection with tense revelations.
- Hardinge uses symbolism effectively, with the lie tree serving as the central motif that embodies the novel's themes.

Characterization:

- Faith is a compelling protagonist—intelligent, resourceful, and morally complex.
- Her family members are multi-dimensional, each with their own secrets and motivations.
- Villains and secondary characters are nuanced, avoiding simple caricatures.

Language and Tone:

- The tone balances gothic mystery with philosophical reflection.
- Gothic elements include eerie settings, dark secrets, and supernatural hints.
- The tone often shifts between tension, wonder, and introspection, creating a layered reading experience.

Critical Reception and Impact

The Lie Tree was widely praised upon release, receiving numerous awards, including the Costa Book Award for Children's Book and the British Science Fiction Association Award. Critics lauded it for:

- Its inventive premise—using a literal "lie tree" as a narrative device.
- The depth of its themes—particularly its critique of Victorian gender roles and its exploration of truth.
- Its appeal to both young adult and adult audiences, thanks to its sophisticated storytelling and universal themes.

Some critics, however, pointed out that the dense philosophical themes might challenge younger readers or those seeking lighter fare. Nevertheless, the novel's layered complexity has cemented its reputation as a significant work of contemporary children's and YA literature.

Significance in Contemporary Literature

The Lie Tree stands out for its daring blend of genres and themes:

- It reimagines Victorian gothic and mystery as a vehicle for modern questions about morality and knowledge.
- It elevates the role of young women as thinkers and truth-seekers, challenging traditional narratives.
- Its exploration of lies as potentially productive or destructive echoes contemporary debates about misinformation and honesty.

The novel's success demonstrates the power of children's and YA literature to engage with complex philosophical issues, making it relevant for adult readers as well.

Final Thoughts: A Must-Read for Thoughtful Readers

In conclusion, Frances Hardinge's *The Lie Tree* is a richly layered novel that combines mystery, gothic horror, and philosophical inquiry into a compelling narrative. Its exploration of truth, deception, gender, and morality resonates beyond its Victorian setting, offering readers a mirror to contemporary societal issues. The novel's intricate plot, evocative language, and morally complex characters make it a standout piece of literature that rewards careful reading and reflection.

Whether you are a fan of gothic mysteries, historical fiction, or thought-provoking literature, *The Lie Tree* offers an immersive experience that challenges perceptions and invites deep contemplation. Its enduring relevance and literary craftsmanship secure its place as a modern classic in children's and YA literature, deserving of both recognition and repeated reading.

Additional Notes for Enthusiasts

- For those interested in further exploration, consider reading about Victorian scientific debates or feminist history to deepen understanding of the novel's context.
- The novel can be paired with discussions on ethics in science and storytelling, making it suitable for educational settings.
- Fans of Frances Hardinge's other works will appreciate her signature style—combining clever storytelling with profound themes.

In sum, *The Lie Tree* is much more than a mystery novel; it is a meditation on the nature of truth, the power of lies, and the importance of questioning societal norms. Its inventive premise and philosophical richness make it an essential read for anyone interested in stories that challenge and inspire.

[The Lie Tree Book](#)

the lie tree book: *The Lie Tree* Frances Hardinge, 2015-05-07 Winner of the Costa Book of the Year 'I can't think of anyone who would not love this story' - Matt Haig, author of *The Midnight Library* *The Lie Tree* is a wonderfully evocative and atmospheric novel by Frances Hardinge, award-winning author of *Cuckoo Song* and *Fly By Night*. Faith's father has been found dead under mysterious circumstances, and as she is searching through his belongings for clues she discovers a strange tree. The tree only grows healthy and bears fruit if you whisper a lie to it. The fruit of the tree, when eaten, will deliver a hidden truth to the person who consumes it. The bigger the lie, the more people who believe it, the bigger the truth that is uncovered. The girl realizes that she is good at lying and that the tree might hold the key to her father's murder, so she begins to spread untruths far and wide across her small island community. But as her tales spiral out of control, she discovers that where lies seduce, truths shatter . . . 'Dark, thrilling, utterly original' - Patrick Ness, author of *A Monster Calls*

the lie tree book: *The Lie Tree* , 2017

the lie tree book: *The Lie Tree: Illustrated Edition* Frances Hardinge, 2016-11-08 Winner of the Costa Book of the Year 2015, *The Lie Tree* is a dark and powerful novel from universally acclaimed author, Frances Hardinge, and illustrated by Children's Laureate, Chris Riddell It was not enough. All knowledge- any knowledge - called to Faith, and there was a delicious, poisonous

pleasure in stealing it unseen. Faith has a thirst for science and secrets that the rigid confines of her class cannot suppress. And so it is that she discovers her disgraced father's journals, filled with the scribbled notes and theories of a man driven close to madness. Tales of a strange tree which, when told a lie, will uncover a truth: the greater the lie, the greater the truth revealed to the liar. Faith's search for the tree leads her into great danger - for where lies seduce, truths shatter . . . The Lie Tree: Illustrated Edition is packed full of gorgeous black and white illustrations by double Kate Greenaway Medal winning-illustrator, Chris Riddell, author of the Goth Girl and Ottoline series. 'Brilliant, dark, thrilling, utterly original' Patrick Ness 'The Lie Tree is a wonder. I can't think of anyone who would not love this story' Matt Haig 'I loved this book so much' Lucy Mangan 'Complex and intelligent: a lustrous, delicious romp.' Philip Womack, The Telegraph

the lie tree book: *The Lie Tree Special Edition* Frances Hardinge, 2016-02-12 Winner of the Costa Book of the Year 2015, *The Lie Tree* is a dark and powerful novel from universally acclaimed author, Frances Hardinge. It was not enough. All knowledge - any knowledge - called to Faith, and there was a delicious, poisonous pleasure in stealing it unseen. Faith has a thirst for science and secrets that the rigid confines of her class cannot suppress. And so it is that she discovers her disgraced father's journals, filled with the scribbled notes and theories of a man driven close to madness. Tales of a strange tree which, when told a lie, will uncover a truth: the greater the lie, the greater the truth revealed to the liar. Faith's search for the tree leads her into great danger - for where lies seduce, truths shatter . . . 'Brilliant, dark, thrilling, utterly original' Patrick Ness, author of *A Monster Calls*. 'The Lie Tree is a wonder. I can't think of anyone who would not love this story' Matt Haig, author of *The Humans*.

the lie tree book: The Lie Tree Frances Hardinge, 2016-04-19 Costa Book of the Year: This novel of science, magic, murder, and a determined Victorian-era teenager is a "heady concoction . . . absolutely unforgettable" (Kirkus Reviews, starred review). Faith Sunderly leads a double life. To most people, she is modest and well-mannered—a proper young lady who knows her place. But inside, Faith is burning with questions and curiosity. She keeps sharp watch of her surroundings and, therefore, knows secrets no one suspects her of knowing—like the real reason her family fled to the close-knit island of Vane. And that her father's death was no accident. In pursuit of revenge and justice for the father she idolizes, Faith hunts through his possessions, where she discovers a strange tree. A tree that bears fruit only when she whispers a lie to it. The fruit, in turn, delivers a hidden truth. The tree might hold the key to her father's murder. Or, it might lure the murderer directly to Faith herself, for lies—like fires, wild and crackling—quickly take on a life of their own. "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 so . . . [a] page-turner." —Locus "The time is nineteenth-century England just after Darwin's theory of evolution has thrown the scientific world into turmoil; the setting is the fictional island of Vane, between land and sea; the main character is a fourteen-year-old girl caught between society's expectations and her fierce desire to be a scientist. . . . A stunner." —The Horn Book (starred review) "A murder mystery that dazzles at every level, shimmering all the more brightly the deeper down into it you go." —Chicago Tribune "Haunting, and darkly funny . . . 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." —Publishers Weekly (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." —School Library Journal (starred review)

the lie tree book: Neo-Victorianism and Sensation Fiction Jessica Cox, 2019-11-11 This book represents the first full-length study of the relationship between neo-Victorianism and nineteenth-century sensation fiction. It examines the diverse and multiple legacies of Victorian popular fiction by authors such as Wilkie Collins and Mary Elizabeth Braddon, tracing their influence on a range of genres and works, including detective fiction, YA writing, Gothic literature, and stage and screen adaptations. In doing so, it forces a reappraisal of critical understandings of

neo-Victorianism in terms of its origins and meanings, as well as offering an important critical intervention in popular fiction studies. The work traces the afterlife of Victorian sensation fiction, taking in the neo-Gothic writing of Daphne du Maurier and Victoria Holt, contemporary popular historical detective and YA fiction by authors including Elizabeth Peters and Philip Pullman, and the literary fiction of writers such as Joanne Harris and Charles Palliser. The work will appeal to scholars and students of Victorian fiction, neo-Victorianism, and popular culture alike.

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the lie tree book: Twenty-First-Century Children's Gothic Chloe Germaine Buckley, 2018-01-09 Brings Ben Jonson to the twenty-first century by reading Volpone through psychoanalysis, poststructuralism and Marxism

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the lie tree book: Children's Writers' & Artists' Yearbook 2022 Bloomsbury Publishing, 2021-07-22 Foreword by M. G. Leonard: 'It's rare to find a book that's as useful as it is inspiring ... essential reading.' The indispensable guide to writing for children and young adults, this Yearbook provides inspirational articles from successful writers and illustrators, as well as details on who to contact across the media. It provides practical advice on all stages of the writing process from getting started, writing for different markets and genres, through to submission to literary agents and publishers as well as on the financial and legal aspects of being a writer. Widely recognised as the essential support for authors and illustrators working across all forms: fiction, non-fiction, poetry, screen and theatre, it is equally relevant to those wishing to self-publish as well as those seeking a traditional publisher-agent deal. New articles for 2022: Christopher Edge Plotting and pace in your middle-grade adventure L. D. Lapinski World-building in your fantasy fiction Anna Wilson Finding your voice and point of view Rachel Bladon The learning curve: writing for the children's educational market Jenny Bowman How to hire a freelance editor Sophie Clarke The life and works of a literary scout Rachel Rooney Writing poetry for children

the lie tree book: Children's Writers' & Artists' Yearbook 2019 Bloomsbury Publishing, 2018-07-26 The annual, bestselling guide to all aspects of the media and how to write and illustrate for children and young adults. Acknowledged by the media industries and authors as the essential guide to how to get published. The 70+ articles are updated and added to each year. Together they provide invaluable guidance on subjects such as series fiction, writing historical or funny books, preparing an illustration portfolio, managing your finances, interpreting publishers' contracts,

self-publishing your work. Foreword by Sarah Crossan, Carnegie Medal winner and author of *One, Breathe*, *Moonrise* (published July 2018) and *We Come Apart* (with Brian Conaghan) NEW articles for the 2019 edition include: LGBT+ characters in children's fiction by Lauren James The hybrid author by Shelli R. Johannes A jobbing writer's lot by Joanna Nadin Adapting children's books for stage and screen by Emma Reeves Where does your book sit? by Jasmine Richards Murderous inventions by Robin Stevens The long and winding road to publication by Paul Stewart Writing picture books by Tessa Strickland The ups and downs of being a writer by Theresa Tomlinson All of the 2,000 listings of who to contact across the media have been reviewed and updated. The essential guide for any writer for children.

the lie tree book: *Rethinking Gothic Transgressions of Gender and Sexuality* Sarah Faber, Kerstin-Anja Munderlein, 2024-03-11 From early examples of queer representation in mainstream media to present-day dissolutions of the human-nature boundary, the Gothic is always concerned with delineating and transgressing the norms that regulate society and speak to our collective fears and anxieties. This volume examines British and American Gothic texts from four centuries and diverse media – including novels, films, podcasts, and games – in case studies which outline the central relationship between the Gothic and transgression, particularly gender(ed) and sexual transgression. This relationship is both crucial and constantly shifting, ever in the process of renegotiation, as transgression defines the Gothic and society redefines transgression. The case studies draw on a combination of well-studied and under-studied texts in order to arrive at a more comprehensive picture of transgression in the Gothic. Pointing the way forward in Gothic Studies, this original and nuanced combination of gendered, Ecogothic, queer, and media critical approaches addresses established and new scholars of the Gothic alike.

the lie tree book: Deeplight Frances Hardinge, 2020-04-14 “Equal parts dazzling fantasy, swashbuckling adventure, and tender coming-of-age tale” from the author of the Costa Book of the Year, *The Lie Tree* (Publishers Weekly, starred review). The gods are dead. Fifty years ago, they turned on one another and tore each other apart. Nobody knows why. Now, even coin-sized scraps of dead god are worth a fortune because of the strange powers they’re said to possess. But few are brave enough to dive and search for them. When fifteen-year-old Hark finds the still-beating heart of one of these deities, he’ll risk everything to keep it out of the hands of smugglers, scientists, and cults who would kill for its power. Because Hark needs the heart if he wants to save the life of his best friend, Jelt. But the power of a god was not meant for human hands. With the heart, Jelt begins to eerily transform, and Hark will have to decide if he can stay loyal to his friend—or what he’s willing to sacrifice to save him. “Hardinge is assured and sophisticated in her exploration of the dark temptations of power.” —The Wall Street Journal “Monsters and mortals collide in this fantasy adventure that explores the hypnotic allure of fear, the adamant grip of the past, and the redeeming power of stories . . . Thrilling.” —Kirkus Reviews (starred review) “Glorious thematic complexity inhabits a wildly inventive world, with the menacing roils of a dangerous sea threatening the archipelago and touches of steampunk rounding out the fantastical elements . . . Readers will be thrilled to be pulled into the alluring expanse of her work.” —Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books (starred review)

the lie tree book: *Plants in Children’s and Young Adult Literature* Melanie Duckworth, Lykke Guanio-Uluru, 2021-11-29 From the forests of the tales of the Brothers Grimm to Enid Blyton’s *The Faraway Tree*, from the flowers of Cicely May Barker’s fairies to the treehouse in Andy Griffith and Terry Denton’s popular *13-Storey Treehouse* series, trees and other plants have been enduring features of stories for children and young adults. Plants act as gateways to other worlds, as liminal spaces, as markers of permanence and change, and as metonyms of childhood and adolescence. This anthology is the first compilation devoted entirely to analysis of the representation of plants in children’s and young adult literatures, reflecting the recent surge of interest in cultural plant studies within the environmental humanities. Mapping out and presenting an internationally inclusive view of plant representation in texts for children and young adults, the volume includes contributions examining European, American, Australian, and Asian literatures and contributes to the research

fields of ecocriticism, critical plant studies, and the study of children's and young adult literatures.

the lie tree book: Gullstruck Island Frances Hardinge, 2018-10-09 From the award-winning author, "a breathtaking journey of revenge and redemption that pits a stubborn, devoted girl against an unknown evil" (Kirkus Reviews, starred review). On Gullstruck Island, legend has it that the mountain ranges and volcanoes are in charge. Anger them, and you'll pay the price. Keep them happy, and you'll enjoy their protection. These stories of the land's command come in handy for quiet, near-invisible Hathin when she must run for her life. Hathin's sister, Arilou, is believed to be a Lost. The Lost are held nearly sacred by those on Gullstruck, for they can send their senses away from their bodies. If Lost, Arilou can read a message across the island. If Lost, Arilou can hear whispers in the corners of private rooms. If Lost, Arilou can smell bread baking in the governor's mansion. All from her beachside hut. But the question remains: Is Arilou really a Lost? When all the Lost drop dead, except Arilou, she and Hathin are swept into a grand conspiracy that leads them to the most sinister depths—and heights—of the island. "Filled with sentient volcanoes, gem-studded teeth, villains, heroes, revenge, love, and the world's most frightening dentist, this is a book to rival *The Princess Bride* in scope, adventure, and excitement. It's Hardinge's magnum opus. One that I dearly hope both kids and adults enjoy in equal measure." —A Fuse #8 Production, School Library Journal "Delightfully inventive . . . Ripe, rollicking, and endlessly creative." —The Guardian "A luminous example of gifted storytelling at its best." —Publishers Weekly (starred review)

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