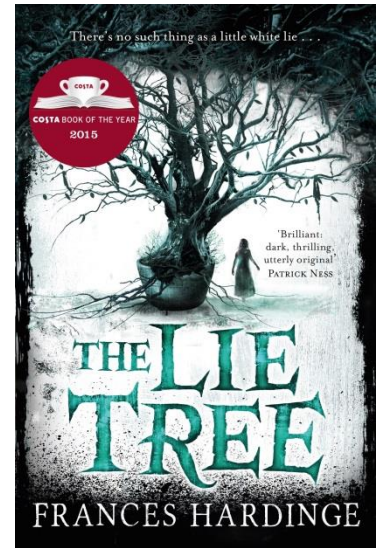
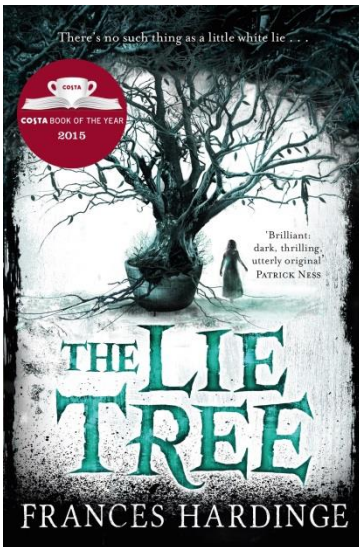


THE LIE TREE BY FRANCES HARDINGE – DISCUSSION NOTES

1. **‘It was the unexpected opportunities that she found hardest to resist. An unattended envelope with the letter peeping out, clean and tantalizing. An unlocked door. A careless conversation, unheeding of eavesdroppers.’** At the beginning of *The Lie Tree*, Faith views her own curiosity as a character flaw. How do you think this view has changed by the end of the novel?
2. How do you think the setting of the island of Vane adds to the atmosphere of the story?
3. Why do you think Faith feels a connection with her father’s snake? Did you identify with a particular pet or possession when you were growing up?
4. **‘A girl cannot be brave, or clever, or skilled as a boy can. If she is not good, she is nothing. Do you understand?’ (Erasmus)** Discuss the ways in which Faith and other female characters face prejudice because of their gender.
5. Discuss the ripple effect of the lies that Faith tells. Which do you think has the biggest impact? Do you think lying can ever be a good thing?
6. In what ways do you think Faith is similar to her father? In what ways is she different?
7. **‘She had always known that she was rated less than Howard, the treasured son. Now, however, she knew that she was ranked somewhere below “miscellaneous cuttings”.’** Discuss Faith’s view of her rank within her family.
8. Why do you think people are so desperate to believe that Faith’s father’s fossils are real? Discuss the conflict between religion and science in *The Lie Tree*.
9. Can you think of some fairy-tale conventions that the author uses in the structure of the story? How does this novel differ from other fantasy books you have read?
10. How does the author’s use of language help to build tension?
11. Were you surprised by the identity of the murderers? What red herrings does the author include to lead the reader to suspect the wrong culprit?
12. Are there mysteries that remain unexplained at the end of the novel?





ABOUT THE BOOK:

Winner of the Costa Book of the Year 2015.

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 and the bigger the truth that is uncovered.

Faith 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 . . .

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Frances Hardinge spent a large part of her childhood in a huge old house that inspired her to write strange stories from an early age. She read English at Oxford University, then got a job at a software company. However, a few years later a persistent friend finally managed to bully Frances into sending a few chapters of *Fly By Night*, her first children's novel, to a publisher. Macmillan made her an immediate offer. The book went on to publish to huge critical acclaim and win the Branford Boase First Novel Award. *The Lie Tree* is Frances's seventh novel.



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT *THE LIE TREE* BY FRANCES HARDINGE AT
WWW.MYKINDABOOK.COM/BOOKS/THE-LIE-TREE

