

THE LIE TREE

FRANCES HARDINGE

GRADES
8+

SUMMARY

Faith Sunderly appears to be a shy and proper young lady. But she burns with questions and rage. She wants nothing more than to be seen as a clever scientist. But she is a girl and this is Victorian England. When her family suddenly moves to Vale to assist with a dig, Faith learns that her family is fleeing rumors and scandal. Her father's behavior is becoming more erratic and volatile. Then he finally takes Faith in his confidence. But then Faith's father dies under mysterious circumstances, and Faith is determined to discover his murderer. When she reads her father's papers, she discovers that she helped her father hide a rare, mysterious plant the night he died--The Mendacity Tree. Faith learns that the tree grows fruit when you feed it lies. When you eat the fruit, it is supposed to reveal great truths. Faith's lies spread quickly on the small island, but will the tree reveal her father's murder before her lies catch up to her? How much will Faith risk in the name of science and truth?

Hardinge, F. (2016). *The lie tree*. Amulet Books

REVIEW



Frances Hardinge's award-winning novel is a mesmerizing mystery with a strong female character. In this historical novel, Hardinge perfectly captures the Victorian attitude toward women and their role in society. We feel young Faith's quiet, simmering anger at her situation, and we rejoice in her courage to stand up and fight. Hardinge blends magical realism into the novel and reveals the power of belief. Sometimes we want to believe a lie so badly that it becomes stronger than truth. Then lies become living, destructive things. Faith fights to discover the truth about her father's death, she fights to be seen and heard, and she fights the cruelty deep in herself that threatens lead her actions. Although the novel has a slow start, I couldn't stop reading after Faith's father died and her quest began. Anyone who loves a realistic fantasy and a good mystery will love [The Lie Tree](#).

THEMES

obsession
faith
temptation
secrets
courage
deceit
gender stereotypes

