



Lies in the Dust: A Tale of Remorse from the Salem Witch Trials

Jakob Crane , Timothy Decker (Illustrations)

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...I desire to lie in the dust and to be humbled for it, in that I was a cause, with others, of so sad a calamity...

In Salem's dark days of 1692 and 1693, young girls pointed fingers and accused others of witchcraft, sentencing them to torture or even death. When the cloud lifted, and the accusations were shown to be false, the girls faced little, if any, penalty.

Were they sorry? No one knows.

Only one girl, Ann Putnam Jr., felt moved to show remorse publicly. Fourteen years after the trials, Ann wrote a letter of apology. This is her story.

Lies in the Dust: A Tale of Remorse from the Salem Witch Trials Details

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From Reader Review Lies in the Dust: A Tale of Remorse from the Salem Witch Trials for online ebook

Calista says

Art: I'm not crazy about the black and white and yet it came off as being very puritan and like a memory from the past- a very dark memory. So it worked for this.

This is about the Salem Witch Trials. Ann Putnam Jr. was one of the girls making accusations against people in the trials. It was proven that all the people who died were innocent and yet nothing ever happened to the girls at the center. Of all of them, we know that one, Ann, apologized for her actions.

This story is about Ann after the fact. She is taking care of her brothers and sisters and she is haunted by the people she killed. She is also shunned by the town and they won't even let her in their stores. It's actually a interesting story. It's worth reading. I enjoyed this much more than I thought I would.

Jen Smith says

What happened after the trials had ended? What happened to the girls who accused the townspeople? This is a great graphic novel that tells the story of one of the girls who stayed in the town. It tells about the pain and regret she experiences after the death of her parents. Easy to read and interesting.

Myke Cole says

This didn't work for me. The writing does not characterize, or arc with any degree of tension. This isn't really the writer's fault beyond the fact that he chose as his subject a historical vignette that doesn't really lend itself well to a story.

There might actually be a story in Anne Putnam's development from naïve accuser to contrite oldster, but if there is, it isn't presented here. I suspect that a great deal of fictional license would be required to make it happen in a narratively satisfying way, but I think that's called for here.

Kathy says

Of the girls that accused women and men of being witches in Salem Village in 1692, only Ann Putnam, Jr. ever expressed remorse, which took the form of a letter fourteen years later, in 1706. This graphic novel does a good job of giving a brief overview of that time and through twenty-seven-year-old Ann's reminiscences, those first accused and charged with witchcraft are presented. I do wish that this graphic representation of Ann's apology would have expanded the historical facts a bit to strengthen its background, but the afterword

fills in a few holes. What I consider this book's most important function is that it raises the awareness about Ann Putnam's being the only apology from the group of girls and adults who sent innocent people to their deaths and ruined many other lives.

mg says

There are a lot of great creepy books out there in YA Land this year (Through the Woods by Emily Carroll, The Riverman by Aaron Starmer, Monstrous Affections: An Anthology of Beastly Tales edited by Kelly Link, etc.)...however, I really think this one takes the cake.

Many of us know the story of the Salem Witch Trials...24 people (mostly women) executed after being accused by a handful of girls of being *witches*. This graphic novel by Jakob Crane tells of the story following the executions from the point of view of Anne Putnam, Jr. - the *one* girl who apologized for their blatant fabrications and false accusations.

I find this book so chilling because, not only did it happen, but it could easily happen again (almost certainly under altered circumstances). One family finds a way to turn the rest of the community against their enemy, and bam, they're executed. It's a story of greed, and the power that it has over people. Jakob Crane does a wonderful job both in the text and the illustrations in depicting this frightening story that, somehow, is still fascinating us more than three centuries later.

Lauren White says

What an awesome interpretive piece about the Salem witch trials. Written from the perspective of Ann Putnam, this graphic novel gives an often unheard take on the trials. It weaves in the emotions of the different characters in a really interesting way. Gives a cool perspective for students and definitely offers an intriguing look at a historical event. Would be good grades 6-up.

Received the book for free through Goodreads First Reads

Chris Robertson says

A good coda to The Crucible, fitting to close all those units eleventh grade English teachers have been serving up for years. The art is minimal, which makes the subject matter more powerful. Sure this is another of those "lest we forget" kind of history lessons, but we need a dose from time to time, right?

Sesana says

Add this to the mountain of fiction related to the Salem Witch Trials. This entry in a crowded field distinguishes itself by being a graphic novel and by being from the perspective of one of the afflicted girls, Ann Putnam. Ann is one of the best known of the afflicted girls, because she was involved from the beginning, and because her entire family ended up playing such a prominent part in the entire proceeding.

And she's the only one of the afflicted girls who was known to make a public apology.

Much of this book is set in 1706, more than a decade after the Trials and just before Ann Putnam issued her apology. Her guilt and regret are deep and genuine. She's definitely tormented about the part she played. Interestingly, the parts of the book set during the Trials are significantly more dry. Perhaps because it's unclear how Ann Putnam might have felt about what she was doing at the time, Crane doesn't make any real effort to try. Instead, much of that information is delivered in relatively vague terms, so impersonally that it might have been from a textbook.

This is not a book for someone who knows little or nothing about the Trials. The book skims over much of what happened, and only specifically names a small handful of the victims. It's even vague about what, precisely, brought the whole thing to an end. I imagine this would be confusing if this was the first or second book you'd read on the subject. Luckily for me, this was not my first go at the subject, and I knew enough to fill in the blanks. And enough to have limited sympathy for Ann Putnam, however sorry she may have felt later.

Laura Phelps says

A graphic novel about Ann Putnam, one of the Salem witch accusers. Rendered in black and white, with sharp text boxes and almost emotion-less illustrations, I was initially put off by the design, but as I read, I realized that it is actually quite brilliant in capturing the nuances of this historical episode. For sophisticated middle grade readers, this would be perfect to read and discuss within the context of a broader unit on the witch trials.

Alicia says

A graphic novel that approaches the Salem Witch Trials from the perspective of Ann Putnam in her 20s and 30s feeling overloaded with remorse and wishing for forgiveness from the community and her family. She relays to her family her wishes to be a better human being and to repent for her weakness in allowing her parents to push her to act out in a way that left about thirty people dead after accusing them of witchcraft.

Obviously a different take as it's after the fact and through Ann's eyes. The illustrations are stark and the text is very manageable. It's about the feelings and emotions with the afterward that discusses a bit more about what was going on in the late 1600s and early 1700s.

Chelsey says

"What is the true power of a word? A word crafted into an accusation can be wielded like a dagger."

Ada Library says

Interesting presentation of the Salem Witch Trials through recollections of Ann Putnam--one of the accusers, and the only one to ever show remorse for her part in the witch hunts of 1692. I particularly liked the ink drawings, devoid of color, and felt the artwork was an appropriate display of dark days in U.S. history.

Jay Rose says

An interesting story that I picked up at my local library. I dont think i would have been willing to buy it, as the story is short, it took me all of 20 minutes to read.It is an interesting look at a part of the salem trials that is little talked about, the lives of the children doing the accusing. Ive always wondered how they grew up with all those deaths in their hearts and honestly, reading Anns confession, Im glad to know that she at least, felt great shame and sorrow for her actions.

Melody says

The illustrations are brilliant. Sharp, almost cutting, they provide the bulk of the story's nuances. The text is less nuanced, not as fully realized. I wish the format was about three times larger so that one could more easily get caught up in the ink-work. What I really loved about the book as a whole is the fresh, poignant angle it came from. I've read a fair bit about that shameful time in the United States' history but never from this slightly canted remove. Very well done, indeed.

Amanda Carr says

Interesting presentation of the Salem Witch Trials through recollections of Ann Putnam--one of the accusers, and the only one to ever show remorse for her part in the witch hunts of 1692. I particularly liked the ink drawings, devoid of color, and felt the artwork was an appropriate display of dark days in U.S. history.
