

Viridiana Rios

A FACE LIKE GLASS

Frances Hardinge



<http://www.franceshardinge.com>

- She studied English at Oxford and founded a writers workshop there.
- Wrote *A Face Like Glass* in 2012
- Was the first author since Phillip Pullman (2001) to win a Costa Book Award with a childrens book in 2015.
- Is never photographed without her black hat.

SUMMARY

Imagine a world that lives just beneath our own. They create delicacies of the highest order. Wines that can erase entire time periods from memory, foods that can bring visions, or perfumes that can bewitch the mind. Then imagine that the residents of this world have no expressions. They feel emotion, but they have no natural facial expressions of their own. If you are of the upper class, you can pay Facesmiths to teach you a Face, or even create one for you. You can learn *The Pupil Waits In Eagerness For Instruction*. Maybe try *The Willow Bows Before The Gale*. If you have the need,

Appeal Of The Shell-less Fledgling is also useful. There aren't really any angry faces, as it is not proper to be angry.

As slightly frightening as that is, now imagine that someone has been dropped into that world with a full range of emotions available to her that she wears on her sleeve. This is where we start "A Face Like Glass". Neverfell is both an enigma and an open book to others, and through simple coincidence ends up in the middle of a large conspiracy full of political intrigue.

QUOTE

Pg. 112 " 'But you're so powerful! If you really wanted to go there, wouldn't you arrange something?' 'What's the point of seeing them if I don't own them?' was Childersin's rejoinder."

Pg. 82 "The skin of the face she had seen in the mirror had been pale, with a dappling of faint freckles" "You locked me away for seven years, Master Grandible. For nothing."

Pg. 101 "Zouelle shook her head.... 'Your in the game now, my dear. There is no going back.' "

IMPORTANCE

This quote gives a really good idea as to why the residents of Caverna don't go to the upper world. This passage also shows the dynamic between Maxim Childersin and Neverfell. While Neverfell is more interested in the beauty of things, Childersin just wants power. This also shows Neverfell's naivete. She likes to believe the best in people.

This is the first moment when she finds out that she can make facial expressions. Her first reaction after horror and fear, is anger. Anger at having been previously trapped, anger at having been lied to, and anger at the fact that no one will believe her. She is also scared, she has heard about the enquirers, she knows she can be put to death for seeming to do the wrong thing. All she wanted to do was fix her mistake.

This is something that shows the political landscape of Caverna. One small slip up can cause your entire family to suffer, or it can turn your family against you in order to survive. Zouelle is new to the landscape and thinks she can handle it, but finds she is very wrong.

OTHER BOOKS BY FRANCES HARDINGE

- *Fly By Night*
- *Twilight Robbery* / US title, *Fly Trap*— sequel to *Fly by Night*
- *Verdigris Deep* / US title, *Well Witched*
- *Gullstruck Island* / US title, *The Lost Conspiracy*
- *A Face Like Glass*
- *Cuckoo Song*
- *The Lie Tree*
- *A Skinful of Shadows*

TEXT COMPLEXITY

Dale-Chall Formula worksheet

Raw score: 2.4126

Adjusted Score: (3.6365 + 2.4126)

Final Score: 6

New Dale-Chall Readability Index:

Grade level: Grades 7 - 8