



## Freaky Green Eyes

By Joyce Carol Oates

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### Freaky Green Eyes By Joyce Carol Oates

Later, I would think of it as crossing over. From a known territory into an unknown. From a place where people know you to a place where people only think they know you.

It began with me a year ago this past July. A few weeks after my fourteenth birthday. When *Freaky Green Eyes* came into my heart.

When her parents separate, Franky Pierson has no trouble deciding whose side she's on. After all, her mother is the one who chose to leave. And when her mother is suddenly reported missing, Franky believes she's simply pulled a disappearing act and deserted their family for good. But a part of Franky, a part she calls *Freaky Green Eyes*, knows that something is wrong. And it's up to *Freaky* to open Franky's eyes to the truth.

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## Freaky Green Eyes By Joyce Carol Oates Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

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Gr. 7-10. *Freaky Green Eyes* is the name 15-year-old Franky gives to her stronger self, the part that has to deal with the enigma that is her parents' relationship. With a nod to the O. J. Simpson case, Oates pulls readers into a fast-paced, first-person thriller that begins when Franky's mother, an artist, begins spending alone time at her cabin. It's immediately clear that her situation isn't idyllic; Franky's father, former football hero and popular sportscaster Reid Pierson, is calling the shots as to when his wife can come and go. There's no nuance to Reid's character. He's a charming, controlling bully who rules his family; should his will be thwarted, he gets physical. When Mrs. Pierson and a male friend disappear, there's also no mystery about who's behind the abduction; the clues, if that's what they are meant to be, are awkwardly dropped. Yet what could have been a predictable plot in the hands of a less-experienced writer becomes an absorbing page-turner as Franky slowly lets herself accept the violence that has always been in her family and finds the courage to stand up to her father. *Ilene Cooper*

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#### Review

“Oates builds the mounting tension masterfully, crafting a fast-paced narrative that will haunt readers long after the final page.” (Publishers Weekly (starred review))

“Moves along at the breathless pace” (BookPage)

“A suspenseful story...grippingly realistic” (KLIATT)

“A fast-paced, first-person thriller” (ALA Booklist)

“Among this year’s most compelling fiction” (Boston Herald)

“Observant family history and a developing mystery.” (Chicago Tribune)

#### About the Author

Joyce Carol Oates is a recipient of the National Book Award and the PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in Short Fiction. She has written some of the most enduring fiction of our time, including the national bestsellers *We Were the Mulvanneys* and *Blonde*, which was nominated for the National Book Award. She is the Roger S. Berlind Distinguished Professor of the Humanities at Princeton University and has been a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters since 1978. In 2003 she received the Commonwealth Award for Distinguished Service in Literature and the Kenyon Review Award for Literary Achievement.

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