



Dovey Coe

Frances O'Roark Dowell

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My name is Dovey Coe and I reckon it don't matter if you like me or not. I'm here to lay the record straight, to let you know them folks saying I done a terrible thing are liars. I aim to prove it, too. I hated Parnell Caraway as much as the next person, but I didn't kill him.

Dovey Coe says what's on her mind, so it's no secret that she can't stand Parnell Caraway. Parnell may be the son of the richest man in town, but he's mean and snobby, and Dovey can't stand the fact that he's courting her sister, Caroline, or the way he treats her brother, Amos, as if he were stupid just because he can't hear. So when Parnell turns up dead, and Dovey's in the room where his body is discovered, she soon finds herself on trial for murder. Can the outspoken Dovey sit still and trust a city slicker lawyer who's still wet behind the ears to get her out of the biggest mess of her life?

Dovey Coe Details

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Author : Frances O'Roark Dowell

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From Reader Review Dovey Coe for online ebook

Cindi says

"Dovey Coe" by Frances O'Roark Dowell, winner of the 2001 Edgar Allan Poe Award for Best Juvenile mystery book, is a timeless story about growing up and one that is surely destined to become a classic.

It's easy to see why this book won The Edgar; the story moves along at a steady pace and the characters are well developed. The author doesn't come out and say which characters are respectable and which may have twisted morals. Instead, each character's personality comes through with the way the author describes them and has them respond to situations. There is the perfect amount of mystery for readers ages 9 and up, but not so little that older readers will get bored.

Read the full review of "Dovey Coe"

<http://www.examiner.com/review/review...>

Ch_beth Rice says

Dovey Coe by Frances O'Roark Dowell is set in the late 1920's in Indian Creek, North Carolina. Dovey is a spunky 12 year-old who is proud of her family's hard work ethic and character. Dovey is also on trial for murder. The opening paragraph of the book hooks the reader and draws you right in, "I hated Parnell Caraway as much as the next person, but I didn't kill him." The book then takes the readers through the events that lead up to Dovey finding herself on the floor next to the dead Parnell with no memory of what happened. After the opening paragraph I expected the rest of the book to be just at page turning. The first half of the book takes the time to give the background of Dovey and her family, perhaps a little too much time. But when the story does get to the trial and outcome it is quite suspenseful. The text is written in regional dialect and adds to the characterization of Dovey, her family, and friends, and it allows the reader to feel they are a part of the small community. The author seamlessly adds details about the way of life in the 1920's in a rural community including everything from daily meals at home to the town general store. It would give middle school readers a glimpse of what life would be like during that time, something that I think is always interesting to compare to life today. Once you are accustom to the dialect of the text, this is an intriguing and suspenseful story about the value of family, love, and friendship.

Linda Russo says

4 1/2 stars

haley says

I read this about 5 years ago, and although I remember liking it I have no idea what it was about. Perhaps a reread is in order.

Lucy says

This is one of my favourite books. I read it as a child and was fascinated this book starting my love for mysteries. It is very simple and laid out but also adds it many estrange and complex elements if you look beneath the surface. It really puts you in the mindset of the main character and in my opinion you get quite emotionally attached to the characters.

Angie Fehl says

Parnell Caraway, son of the richest man in Indian Creek, NC is the biggest bully in town. Having grown up reaping the benefits of his father's wealth (his father owning the general store as well as most of the residential property in town), Parnell breezes through life on his sense of entitlement. The one major burr in his side is the Coe family, one of the few families in town who own their home & surrounding property outright. Parnell has a romantic interest in the Coe's eldest daughter, Caroline so he reluctantly plays nice with the rest of the family, at least outwardly. Caroline's younger sister, Dovey (the story's protagonist) doesn't buy the act. She's been on the receiving end of Parnell's taunts when no one else was around, and she's seen how mean he is to her brother's dogs, not to mention never giving her brother any respect or even acknowledging his presence most days. Dovey, though not a fan of Parnell, tries not to pay too much attention to him, focusing her attention on her deaf / mute older brother Amos. Amos, because of his disability, gets mistaken for slow in the head a lot, thus getting a strong dose of taunts and bullying. Dovey, tomboy through and through, gets in a lot of faces keeping the bastards off her brother. As for Amos, he's actually able to read and write pretty well, his favorite author being Mark Twain. He struck me as the "gentle giant" type.

Caroline Coe has plans to get out of town, attend teacher's college and try to see at least some of the world outside of Indian Creek. Parnell doesn't put much stock in Caroline's dreams, much like the way she doesn't pay much attention to his flirtations. At least not at first. When Parnell gets word that Caroline has her college tuition paid and will be leaving town for sure, he amps up his attentions and for some reason, she allows and even somewhat encourages him -- maybe because she figures she's on her way out of town, no time for anything serious.

Well, when Parnell doesn't take the hint and tries to propose to Caroline (in front of the entire town, btw) the day before she's set to leave. Much to his shock and awe she turns him down! It's then that the reader sees that Parnell is not only a spoiled brat / bully of a man, he's also a mean-hearted sore loser. To get back at Caroline, Parnell puts together this ruse where he steals one of Amos' dogs and then tells Dovey to come get it because it tried to attack him. Dovey feels like something is fishy with this story but meets up with him anyway. She finds that he indeed does have one of Amos' dogs, tied up in the back of the Caraway's general store. This meeting quickly turns pretty sinister, there's a scuffle when Dovey realizes what Parnell brought her there for, she blacks out in the confusion, wakes up to find Parnell dead on the floor next to her. She's pretty sure it wasn't her that killed him but Mrs. Caraway comes to the store looking for her son and finds Dovey there next to the body so in a matter of days, little pre-teen Dovey finds herself the center of a murder trial. Will the truth come out in time?

I loved Dowell's writing style. Though the story is written in Dovey's voice, a light mountain dialect, it's not

at all hard to follow. I never expected Parnell to get as dark and mean-spirited as he did but having that element did move the story along nicely. My one issue with this story is I wished it was longer! The characters sometimes felt as if they could have benefited from a little more development, and the trial portion felt a little rushed to me. Otherwise, a very fun story with the adorable Dovey, who is very much reminiscent of Scout from Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird*.

Charlynn says

With a unique mixture of colloquialism and southern refinement, outspoken Dovey, wrongfully accused of murder, sweeps readers along on her journey of self-discovery. Perhaps the most compelling aspect of Dovey Coe is that it does not present a black and white picture of right and wrong. When the villain of the story is murdered, Dovey concludes that he did not deserve his fate, though she protects the unpunished guilty party. Despite Dovey's young age, her tale presents a complicated glimpse at the enigmatic nature of life. Just as Dovey matures, the novel provides its audience with a chance to think and grow as well. Although aided by Dovey's everyman persona and the accurate details of the setting, the book still presents some weaknesses: cliché characters and an ambiguous handling of the Prohibition Era. Like its namesake, though, Dovey Coe is not perfect; perhaps that is why readers will enjoy it.

Elizabeth says

Read!

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[illegible]

Cynthia says

The first part of the story leads up to the death of Parnell while the last part of the story involves the trial of Dovey. Frances O'Roark Dowell crafts a true trial complete with evidence and turns of events that the reader does not anticipate.

This is a book that I have recommended numerous times to both reluctant readers and readers just looking for a good book. Definitely one of my favorite young adult books read in my adult years.

babyhippoface says

I'm beginning to like Frances O'Roark Dowell more and more and more. Loved *Shooting the Moon* and *The Kind of Friends We Used to Be*, and now I've finally met Dovey Coe. Wish I'd done it earlier.

Smart, tough, quick-tempered, sassy, and fiercely loyal, Dovey is a girl with moxie. Dowell has captured her voice so clearly, from the mountain dialect to the spunky attitude. Although some townspeople are prejudiced against the Coes simply because they're mountain folk, the integrity of the family shines in their interaction with each other. This is a good, hard-working, honest family, though some will never realize that because of their prejudices.

Some will wonder about Dovey's account of the events surrounding Parnell's death--*is she really innocent? She did hate Parnell, after all.* Others will firmly believe Dovey is telling the truth--*she's just that kind of girl, honest and tough. But if she didn't kill Parnell Caraway, then who did?* Although I "solved" the mystery early on, I think it's just about right for students. Enough clues there to figure out who and why, if they're really looking, but still enough of a mystery to keep them reading.

Michaela says

Review for Dovey Coe

My favorite thing about this book was the way author Frances O'Roark Dowell developed the main character and voice of the story, Dovey. The way she talked and thought conveyed what kind of person she was: fierce, feisty, and brave. The story was a quick and easy read, but fun and interesting. The author also did a good job of "painting a picture" of the southern setting, which gave me, as a reader, a clear visual of what it looked like for the characters. One thing that felt odd to me was that the most eventful storyline in the book-Dovey's trial after being accused of killing Parnell Caraway-did not really start until about two thirds of the way through the book. The beginning part was all about Parnell spending the whole Summer coming to Dovey's house, trying to persuade her sister, Caroline, to marry him, even though he was an awful person and very cruel to Dovey and her brother, Amos. I enjoyed this part of the story, but the plotline seemed to shift somewhat abruptly after Parnell was killed and Dovey accused. I did not find this way of shifting plots bad or difficult to follow, but it was not typical or traditional writing. I really liked the book overall and would recommend it.

Heather says

Dovey Coe by Frances O'Roark Dowell was one of the best young adult novels I have read in awhile. Dovey's character is priceless - she is a feisty young spitfire who speaks her mind no matter what. She lives in the mountains of North Carolina with her family, which includes a mother, father, a sister who is about to go to college, and a brother who is deaf. Dovey makes it no secret that she does not like the stuck up rich boy named Parnell Caraway who is courting her older sister, but when she is accused of Parnell's murder, Dovey

has to use her common sense and wit to "fetch herself out of that trouble." Dovey is a character to remember - one cannot put this book down without falling in love with little Dovey Coe.

Kendall M says

Dovey Coe was a mystery and historical fiction and I loved it! Dovey starts off telling us about her family and what it is like being a Coe. Dovey may have been a little girl but she had the strength and mind of a twelve year old boy. When the mystery begins you do not want to put the book down. Dovey makes you want to read more and more. When you find out who actually kills Parnell you are very surprised! The author did a great job and keeping this book suspenseful and that is why I gave it three stars!!!

Chelsa says

This is a great story to read along with "To Kill a Mockingbird".

Linda Lipko says

Dovey Coe and her family are poor by the standards set by others. By Dovey's standard, they are rich in the love of the land, in the love of family and in the love of simple things like climbing a mountain to find fox glove and the wild life of the woods.

Dovey is plain looking by the standards set by others. By her standards, it is what's inside that counts.

Dovey's sister Caroline is beautiful by all standards. When the son of the richest man in town sets his hooks on Caroline, he is unpleasantly surprised that she is not enamored with his bravado, good looks and money.

Dovey's brother was born deaf. By the standards of the town, he is stupid and an object of ridicule. By Dovey's family's standards, he is a rich jewel of love.

When Parnell Caraway learns he cannot obtain what he wants, he attempts to harm Dovey's family. Through the crystal clear eyes of a child, the story unfolds like dominoes wherein one is touched and the rest fall in motion.

I liked spunky, spirited Dovey Coe. She very much reminded me of Scout Finch from To Kill A Mockingbird.

Highly recommended! Winner of the Edgar Allan Poe Award.
