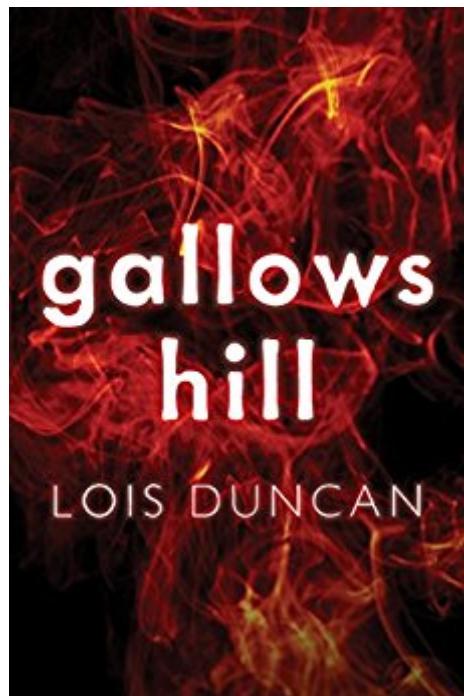


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# Gallows Hill



## Synopsis

Seventeen-year-old Sarah doesn't believe in magic, but she thinks it's fun to pretend to be a psychic "until her startling visions of the future turn deadly. When Sarah Zoltanne moves from sunny California to a small town in Missouri, she feels like she'll never fit in. Her mother is dating a jerk, the kids at her school despise her, and she misses her old home. So when a popular boy asks her to tell fortunes at a school fair, she jumps at the chance. But soon her crystal ball begins to swirl with strange visions and her outlandish predictions start to come true with startling accuracy. Now Sarah must confront a community that not only mistrusts her, but also fears her strange powers. "Gallows Hill" is a spine-chilling thriller based on the story of the Salem witch trials. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Lois Duncan including rare images and never-before-seen documents from the author's personal collection.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Gallows Hill" is a very well crafted suspense/supernatural thriller. Although I don't usually go for the paranormal books, this one was presented in a way that was, for the most part, believable. It is also

supposed to be a young adult book, but I found it entertaining for the not-so-young adults as well. The book starts with Sarah Zoltanne being forced to relocate from Ventura, California, to tiny Pine Crest, Missouri, for her final year of high school. She was forced to follow when her mother Rosemary, widowed for several years, met Ted Thompson at a teacher conference and fell irresistibly in love. Ted was still married, although separated, and had a teenage daughter, Kyra, who was only one year younger than Sarah. The move was particularly rough for Sarah as no child wants to move away from their friends for their last year of high school. Add to that the fact that Pine Crest was a small community where the children had known each other almost from birth, and Sarah and Kyra couldn't stand each other, and you get what was the makings of a pretty miserable senior year for Sarah. The class president, and anointed golden boy of Pine Crest, Eric Garrett, asks Sarah to help with the senior class fundraiser. They were holding a carnival in the gymnasium and Eric wanted her to be 'Madame Zoltanne,' fortune teller extraordinaire. Sarah tried every excuse she could think of to get out of it especially the fact that she didn't know the first thing about telling fortunes. Eric had a plan though. Kyra had a wireless radio and would feed info on all the people walking in Sarah's tent. Sarah would then put everything together and come up with a fortune. Her mother even had a crystal paperweight (which had a life of its own) that Sarah could use as a crystal ball. Pressured to try and 'fit in' by Ted and Rosemary, Sarah agrees. The night turned out to be a major success. People were astonished that a stranger knew so many details about them, many she had never even spoken with before. All was going very well until Charlie Gorman walked in. Overweight and uncoordinated, Charlie was the class whipping board and was constantly being teased. When Sarah looked in the crystal ball for Charlie, she saw him being pushed down a flight of stairs. She was so taken aback by this that she feigned a headache and, since the carnival was almost over, decided to call it a night. When Charlie showed up at school the next day with a cast on his arm, things started getting sticky for Sarah. Eric, having a hidden agenda of his own, pressures Sarah into holding private readings for cash. Kyra has a major crush on Eric and agrees to help. As she holds more fortune readings, Sarah sees things in the crystal ball which ultimately come to fruition. Add to this her nightmares about the Salem Witch trials and her growing friendship with Charlie, who is a proponent of reincarnation, and things start to spiral out of control for Sarah. I very much enjoyed reading this book and while the plot was not really surprising, it kept the pages turning. None of us know what's on the other side of the grave, so who can say what happens.

While I can't say if this one of Lois Duncan's best books or not, it is a good fast-paced read. Although, it is a bit juvenile, as it was written for a younger crowd, I have to say as an adult, I

enjoyed it, despite what I felt was a rushed ending, it was a very satisfying conclusion to a gripping novel of suspense. I also loved the way she handled the bits about the witch trials in Salem and how they overall were incorporated into the story as a whole.

This was a good easy book I enjoyed reading it....I did find it a little slow moving but all in all I would recommend.

This has all the ingredients of a great book. It's dark, mysterious, and exciting. It really caught my attention, and made me keep reading. It's an awesome read! I would recommend. Lois Duncan's excellent!

This book really touches the heart as it tingles the spine. I felt for heroine Sarah as she is haunted by the memories of young Betty Parris, who triggered the Salem Witch Hunt, and persecuted by her classmates. I almost cried when no one believed what she said about the drawing of the noose and about the dead crow. Another thing I loved was her relationship with the large-bodied-but-kindhearted-and-cute Charlie. That really touched my heart because I too was in love with a generously-sized gentleman. This book is well-crafted and entertaining and just plain excellent. Buy two copies. You'll wear out the first from reading it so much. Lois D. does it again. I think all her "teen-suspense" books are great, even though I said goodbye to my teenhood some years ago.

Keep up the good work

While I agree that this is an excellent story, the kindle version of this book is so full of misspelled words that it makes it very difficult to read. Every page has misspelled words. I bought this for my niece to enjoy (and introduce her to Kindle) but had to keep helping her figure out what each of the misspelled words were suppose to be. In many places throughout the story, the word "die" is used where "the" is suppose to be. I also bought her the other Lois Duncan book, I hope that it is better. I'm afraid that this was a poor choice for an introduction to Kindle for her.

ok

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