



The Tulip Touch

By Anne Fine

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The Tulip Touch By Anne Fine Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

"This exceptionally insightful tale offers a fascinating study of a much-victimized child striking out at the world," said PW in a starred review. Ages 12-up. (June)

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From School Library Journal

Grade 6-9. Natalie realizes she must cut herself off from Tulip, whose lies, cruelty, and need to control threaten to destroy them both. A haunting novel about the sometimes malevolent nature of friendship.

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From Kirkus Reviews

The author of *Alias Madame Doubtfire* (1987) and, more recently, *Step by Wicked Step* (1996) mines a darker vein with this study in malevolence. Exploring the countryside around the elegant old hotel her father is now managing, Natalie first sees Tulip standing in a field holding a kitten; later in school Natalie makes overtures of friendship, not realizing until too late that Tulip is a social outcast and perennial discipline problem as well. Enthralled by Tulip's fearlessly antisocial behavior, Natalie surrenders her will and common sense, playing along in a succession of pranks, cleverly subtle harassment, and quiet, mean games with hair-raising names--Rats in a Firestorm or Road of Bones. In Fine's view, Tulip is to be pitied as much as feared, for her twisted, uncontrolled nature has been molded by an abusive father--but all of the adults in the story come in for a share of the blame, too, aware of Tulip's situation but, beyond handwringing, allowing it to continue. After a game of Wild Nights ends in arson, Natalie finds herself abruptly free of Tulip's spell and breaks off the friendship. Tulip retaliates, and on Christmas Eve, the hotel goes up in flames. Fine expresses with canny precision her protagonist's ambivalence and soul-searching, challenging readers to see how fascinating such repellent behavior can be. A moving, complex story. (Fiction. 11-13) -- *Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

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