

JACK HEATH



No secret
is worth
dying for...

LIARS

THE TRUTH APP

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CHAPTER SAMPLER

HEY, NERDS!

I'VE BEEN MAKING A LIE-DETECTOR APP. IT USES THE SPEECH RECOGNITION CODE THAT RANDALL787 POSTED LAST WEEK (THANKS, RANDY!) TO UNDERSTAND WHAT SOMEONE IS SAYING, THEN COMPARES THAT TO A LIST OF EVASIVE PHRASES. IT ALSO USES GUITAR-TUNING SOFTWARE TO SEE IF SOMEONE'S VOICE IS SUSPICIOUSLY HIGH (WHICH MIGHT MEAN THEY'RE NERVOUS), AND A FACE-READER PLUGIN TO SEE IF IT LOOKS LIKE THE PERSON IS THINKING TOO HARD (LYING TAKES MORE CONCENTRATION THAN TELLING THE TRUTH).

CAN YOU GUYS HELP ME TEST IT? DOWNLOAD LINK IS BELOW.

truthapp-11.zip

THANKS,

JarJarStinks05

—From the documentation for Truth, version 1.1—

'Mum,' Jarli said. 'There's been an accident.'

'What kind of accident?'

'A car accident.' His phone beeped: **LIE** He had programmed the app to monitor phone calls. 'I mean, not an accident. Someone rammed our car.'

Dad is hurt.'

There was a long, scary silence.

'I'm getting into the car now. Kirstie! Get in the car. See you soon, Jarli.'

As soon as Jarli hung up, his phone chimed. A text message must have come through while he was talking to Mum—

Wrong. Ninety messages had come through.

Jarli stared at the screen. Could word about the car crash have spread so fast? He didn't think he even knew ninety people.

He opened the most recent message. It was from his best friend, Bess.

Dude, answer your phone!

Jarli scrolled back through the other messages from her.

A lady from the news came to school looking for you.

Something about your app?

Hey, you're famous! Your app has 900 shares and counting! No wonder she wants to talk to you.

Are you seeing this?
11 000 shares!

Hey, now that you're a celebrity, can you mention my blog? I'd love some readers.

Fine. It was just a thought. Whatever.

800 000 SHARES. 😊
Dude! Where are you?

Oh, I get it. Now that you're famous, you're too busy to talk to me.

I know you're getting my messages. You're always on your phone. It's like it's replaced your brain.

Bess often played pranks on Jarli. This might be one of them. But if so, she'd gotten a lot of other people involved. There were messages from dozens of senders. Jarli was about to open one when the phone started ringing in his hand. The screen said PRIVATE NUMBER.

He answered. 'Hello?'

'Mr Durras!' a voice said. 'I'm so pleased I managed to get through to you.'

'Uh, hi,' Jarli said. 'Who's this?'

'This is Dana Reynolds from Nationwide. Thank you for taking the time to speak with us today.'

Jarli looked at his father, strapped to the stretcher. 'Actually,' he said, 'I'm, uh, kind of in the middle of something.'

'It'll only take a minute,' Reynolds said cheerily.

Jarli's app beeped. **LIE**

'Uh, gotta go,' Jarli said, and hung up.

He opened a web browser and put his own name into the search field. In the five seconds it took him to type it in and hit 'search', three more messages came through. Two were from journalists and one was from his school principal.

Jarli, it's Mrs Genetti. We'd like to profile you in the newsletter—your project could be good publicity for the school!

Ignoring the principal's message, Jarli scrolled down to the search results. Today there were hundreds of results, all for Jarli's own name. Some were even in other languages.

Search Jarli Durras 🔍

>New app exposes lies

>This amazing app will tell you when someone is lying

>Teenager invents miracle app

>5 free apps which will improve your relationship

Jarli leaned against the wall of the ambulance, stunned.

THIS WASN'T A PRANK.

His lie-detector app had gone viral.