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Join the Festival of Lies!

Every year, during the Festival of Lies, the entire city of Spoke turns upside down and back to front. (*City of Lies*, Book 2 of The Keepers trilogy)

No one tells the truth when the festival is on. Women are disguised as men, and men are disguised as women. They hold pretend battles in the street, or walk everywhere backwards. They fall in love with stray dogs and, when the dogs bark at them, they cry, 'Oh, my beloved, how sweetly you sing!'

Here are some more examples of people telling lies:

Example 1. *Bonnie leaned forward, wide-eyed. The mice sat up on their haunches and inspected her, their tiny noses twitching. 'They won't bite her, will they?' said Toadspit.*

'Course they will,' said Pounce. 'They're man-eaters. They dragged an old lady in here earlier, and there's nothing left of her now but false teeth and undies.'

Example 2. *The stall owner was biting into her own tart with obvious satisfaction. 'Disgusting,' she murmured.*

Goldie took a tiny bite. The pastry was sweet and crumbly. The jam melted on her tongue. 'Mm,' she said. 'That's really horrible.'

How well do you think you would do in the Festival of Lies? This is your chance to find out, because today's challenge is to write a story set during the festival.

You can write about Goldie and Toadspit, or Bonnie, or Pounce, if you like. Or you can make up your own characters. Either is fine. But make sure they've got a purpose. Maybe they're searching for someone or something. Maybe they're lost, or in hiding.

And remember that everything they say has to be a lie – unless they are holding an animal. Then and only then can they tell the truth.

Good luck! Oops, I mean *Bad* luck. I hope you fail miserably! ;)

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Illustration: Sebastian Ciaffaglione