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Tiger Lily

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Anderson, Jodi Lynn. *Tiger Lily*. New York: HarperTeen, 2012. JUV PZ7.A53675Ti 2012.

“I could hear the quiet in Tiger Lily’s heart. I had never heard it so soft, so at peace, as I did that evening, as she sat with Peter and watched those horses, and dreamed for a moment that she would never have to lose him, or herself.” – 197

Fifteen-year-old Tiger Lily is more like a wild animal than like the other children of her village. Daughter of the shaman and uninterested in the normal activities of other girls her age, Tiger Lily spends much of her time roaming the forests of Neverland. Everywhere that Tiger Lily treks, she is followed by an insect-sized fairy: Tinker Bell narrates Tiger Lily’s life, clarifying the customs of the village, explaining why Tiger Lily wears crow feathers in her hair, and even describing Tiger Lily’s thoughts and feelings. But the comfortable, if sometimes complicated, routine into which both Tiger Lily and Tinker Bell have fallen changes when the two accidentally meet Peter Pan.

Though repeatedly warned against Peter before ever meeting him, once she has, Tiger Lily cannot stay away. Tinker Bell, admittedly in love with Peter, has no wish to do so. As the pair begins to spend more time with the lost boys and less time in Tiger Lily’s village, Tiger Lily starts to lose sight of changes happening among her people. Most importantly, Englishman Phillip – stranded on the island and once feared by the villagers – has now taken a prominent place in village life: the place of the shaman. And when, finally realizing this, Tiger Lily turns to Peter and the lost boys in her distress, she is met with another shift in what she has come to consider a surety of her life; only this time, the change comes in the form of Wendy Darling.

With Tiger Lily as its central character and told from Tinker Bell’s point of view, Anderson’s reimagining of the classic *Peter Pan* is darker than Disney’s version. Tiger Lily has trouble connecting with others; Peter and the lost boys are lonely and scared; village dogma may radically change in an instant, sweeping up some and leaving some behind; Captain Hook and his men are dirty, sad, and broken; Wendy Darling is vain and a bit manipulative; even tiny Tinker Bell has emotional issues. Readers may know the ending of this story from the start, but after experiencing adventure, love, and loss alongside Tiger Lily and through the eyes of Tinker Bell, readers will see Neverland in an entirely new way.