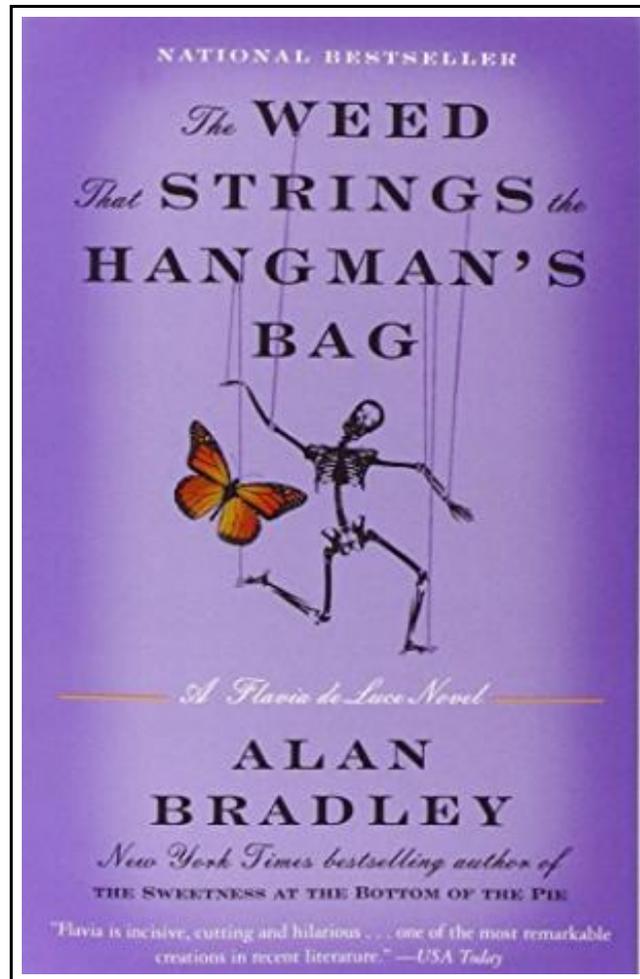


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THE WEED THAT STRINGS THE HANGMAN'S BAG: A FLAVIA DE LUCE NOVEL



Bantam. 1 Paperback(s), 2011. soft. Book Condition: New. This sequel to Alan Bradley's Agatha, Barry, Ellis, Macavity, and CWA Dagger Awardwinning debut mystery *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie* sees the return of Flavia de Luce, a dangerously smart 11-year-old with a passion for chemistry and a genius for solving murders. The young amateur sleuth thinks that her days of crime solving in the bucolic English hamlet of Bishop's Lacey are over until beloved puppeteer Rupert Porson has his own strings sizzled in an unfortunate rendezvous with electricity. But who'd do such a thing, and why? Does the madwoman who lives in Gibbet Wood know more than she's letting on? What about Porson's charming but erratic assistant? All clues point toward a suspicious death years earlier and a case the local constables can't solve at least, not without Flavia's help. This installment of Bradley's hugely popular British cozy series is characteristically full of quirky characters and snappy dialogue. "Flavia, the precocious, imaginative, and adorable 11-year-old sleuth, returns for her second adventure. It's a mystery in itself how a mature male author can pen the adventures of such a young female child and keep readers believing in the fantasy. Flavia's world is 1950s England specifically, a very old country house that just happens to have a long-abandoned chemistry laboratory. And Flavia just happens to be fascinated by chemistry particularly poisons. This helps her solve mysteries because, as Flavia says, 'There's something about pottering with poisons that clarifies the mind.' This time she becomes involved with the members of a traveling puppet show that features the tale of Jack and the Beanstalk. When the puppetmaster is mysteriously electrocuted during the show, Flavia knows it can't be an accident and eventually finds the murderer. The rest of Flavia's family are also eccentric, to say the least,...



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