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## **The Land Of Liars** David Citino

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**David Citino**

THE LAND OF LIARS

*A survey of Italians said 70% had confessed to telling between 5 and 10 lies every day.*

—Reuters

In the land of Pinocchio, where even wood can come to life at a magic word or two, up and down both coasts, from the Alps to Milan, Pisa to Bologna to Venice and Rome, even in Assisi, especially at the Vatican, around Naples, throughout Calabria and Sicily of course, noses are growing. Two-thirds are women who lie in love. *There was never anyone but you. He wasn't the man you are. None of the others meant a thing to me. My God you are so big you are killing me. O Christ! O Jesus! Of course I did. How can you ask that? It's never been that good before. V ve never said those words before. Men are more likely to lie on the job. Not a problem. It's been taken care of. Yes I know all about that. It's in the mail. It's not my fault. That's not my responsibility. But I told you about it. I told him just what you told me. You never told me that. She was begging me for it. 27% lie to cover up errors. God, if you grant me this I'll never ask another favor. I'll go to church every day. I'll stop doing . . . you know what. 42% lie to avoid conflict. How nice to see you. I haven't told a soul. Of course I've forgiven you. I'll miss you more than I can say. 21% lie for the good of someone else. This is better than my mother makes it. Actually I prefer my pasta limp and soft, my wine sweet as candy. That looks great on you. I was just thinking about you. I swear on my mother's grave. I can't live without you. I'll never lie to you. I've never lied to you before. I have lied to you before but this is the gospel truth. Everything I've said is true, essentially.*