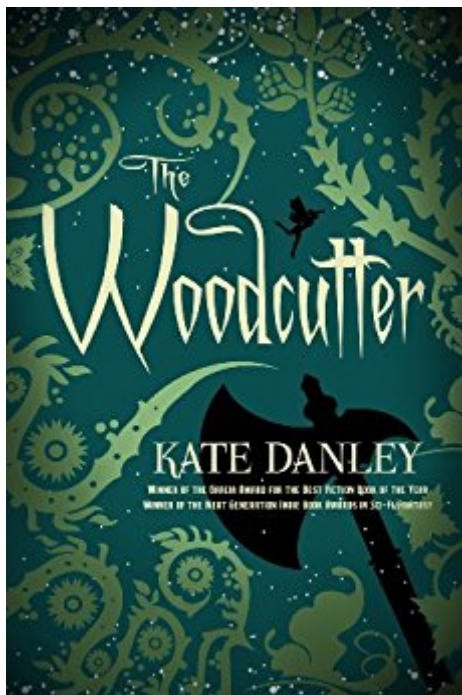


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The Woodcutter



Synopsis

Deep within the Wood, a young woman lies dead. Not a mark on her body. No trace of her murderer. Only her chipped glass slippers hint at her identity. The Woodcutter, keeper of the peace between the Twelve Kingdoms of Man and the Realm of the Faerie, must find the maiden's killer before others share her fate. Guided by the wind and aided by three charmed axes won from the River God, the Woodcutter begins his hunt, searching for clues in the whispering dominions of the enchanted unknown. But quickly he finds that one murdered maiden is not the only nefarious mystery afoot: one of Odin's hellhounds has escaped, a sinister mansion appears where it shouldn't, a pixie dust drug trade runs rampant, and more young girls go missing. Looming in the shadows is the malevolent, power-hungry queen, and she will stop at nothing to destroy the Twelve Kingdoms and annihilate the Royal Faerie unless the Woodcutter can outmaneuver her and save the gentle souls of the Wood. Blending magic, heart-pounding suspense, and a dash of folklore, *The Woodcutter* is an extraordinary retelling of the realm of fairy tales.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A spoiler alert in this review. The premise was enough to get me in, but the action didn't change much during the entire book. I think it's for a young audience (teens at best), but it's promoted for adults. The fun was in seeing well-known story book characters seen in a different light -- but by the time the guy saves the wood and (spoiler alert) dies and then is 'resurrected' you really begin to wonder if the author was trying to write a story or rewrite the story of a Christ figure. I read the entire book, hoping for something a bit less predictable or to at least find a point to it. I give it three stars instead of two, only because the imagery is very good. But really -- the ending doesn't make a lot of sense. The guy is a cutting from a tree and yet he finds his son -- a mortal human -- how is the boy supposed to become a woodcutter -- to me that's just one of the loose ends. It's all fairies, pixies and fae -- and then Odin somehow makes an appearance. I was pretty disappointed.

This book is a mashup of and a tribute to fairy tales and myths, similar to Sondheim's "Into the Woods," but with an actual plot. It was engaging, interesting and moving, and much like *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*," follows the story of a secondary character to examine his role in the narrative. I liked it and was moved, but I didn't like his female characters much. His wife is central to his story but rarely talks, and the other female protagonists are either subordinate to someone or evil. Otherwise, a great story for lovers of fairy tales

I'm not sure how to review this book. For the first 90%, it's a dizzying and sometimes stretched tour of pretty much every western fairy tale you can think of. Baba Yaga and her house. Odin at the head of the Wild Hunt. 12 Dancing Princesses in a house that wanders. All that times a dozen. The central character, the Woodcutter, is charged with maintaining order and balance in the 12 Kingdoms, and he is stalwart and tough about it, and I really enjoyed watching him problem-solve his way around fairytale troubles. He is deeply in love with his wife, and they are very happy together, except when he has to go out and keep the peace. The chapters are tiny, but once I got used to that, I kind of enjoyed it. Like each one was a story-morsel. And I enjoyed the fantastic breadth of the fairy tales that got included. And then it all kind of fell apart at some really clumsy Christian symbolism. I am not against Christian allegory in fantasy, but it has to be more subtle than this was, or better integrated. Or something. I think it's possible that someone less steeped in Christianity would not be troubled by two women preparing a body and the spirit waiting three days and the other tics, but I was. Read if: You want to see a virtuosic review of western fairy tales. You love cop stories in all their varieties. Skip if: You hate a clumsy ending. Also read: *A Sorcerer's Treason: A Novel of Isavalta, Book One (Prologue Fantasy)* by Sarah Zettel. This is a trilogy that moves through several

zones of fairy tales deftly and engagingly.(Kindle book is currently cheap. You'll thank me!)

Written in the prose of old fairy tales, I found *The Woodcutter* to be an engaging and intriguing read. I've been reading a lot of fantasy/drama/mystery stuff lately, which tend to be full of interesting lead characters inherent with flaws that influence their journeys. No knock at all to those characters, but it was rather refreshing to find a protagonist who is so steady and good, but still manages to be interesting. I really enjoyed it. Thank you!

Wow! I loved this book so much I reread it immediately upon completing it the first time, and then I made my husband and kids (older kids) listen to it on a road trip. Kate Danley does an amazing job of taking folk tales and fairy tales we've heard and entwining them into something entirely new, a little twisted, and a little modern, while still being a long time ago in a land far, far away. This book is one of those gems you stumble upon every once in a while that you just don't want to end, and yet when it does, you are so satisfied. Except you aren't because you are dying for a sequel! As a fan of fantastical creatures and the many great authors of yesteryear who brought them to life, I am so excited to find a modern day author whose works I can look forward to in the years to come! I dare you to read the first three pages of the book and be able to put it down!

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