

uprooted book naomi novik

Uprooted Book Naomi Novik: An In-Depth Exploration

Introduction to Uprooted and Naomi Novik

Uprooted Book Naomi Novik is a captivating fantasy novel that has garnered widespread acclaim since its release in 2015. Renowned author Naomi Novik, best known for her Temeraire series, ventures into a standalone fantasy realm that combines folklore, magic, and richly developed characters. The novel's compelling narrative, atmospheric setting, and lyrical prose have made it a must-read for fantasy enthusiasts and critics alike.

Naomi Novik: The Author Behind Uprooted

Background and Literary Career

Naomi Novik is an American author whose writing career spans various genres, but she is most celebrated for her contributions to fantasy literature. She first gained prominence with her Temeraire series, which reimagines the Napoleonic Wars with dragons. Novik's writing is characterized by her lyrical style, deep world-building, and focus on complex characters.

Inspirations and Writing Style

Novik draws inspiration from Eastern European folklore, fairy tales, and mythologies, infusing her stories with cultural depth and authenticity. Her prose is often described as poetic and immersive, which is evident in Uprooted. Her ability to craft vivid worlds and morally nuanced characters sets her apart in the fantasy genre.

Overview of Uprooted

Plot Summary

Uprooted tells the story of Agnieszka, a young woman living in a quiet village overshadowed by a dark, corrupted forest known as the Wood. Every ten years, the village provides one young woman to serve the powerful and enigmatic wizard known as the Dragon. Agnieszka's life changes dramatically when she is chosen, revealing her hidden potential and unraveling the mysteries of her world.

The novel explores themes of heroism, identity, and the battle between good and evil. As Agnieszka learns to harness her innate magic, she must confront the sinister forces lurking within the Wood and uncover her own strength.

Genre and Themes

Uprooted is a blend of fantasy, fairy tale, and folklore, with a strong emphasis on character development and moral complexity. Central themes include:

- The power of nature and magic
- Personal growth and self-discovery
- The importance of bravery and sacrifice
- The conflict between tradition and change

The Setting and World-Building in Uprooted

The Villages and the Forest

Naomi Novik masterfully constructs a world where rural villages are overshadowed by a vast, malevolent forest. This setting creates a sense of isolation and danger, emphasizing the stakes for the characters.

- The villages are idyllic but fraught with danger due to the Wood's influence.
- The Wood is a living, corrupting force that embodies chaos and evil, yet also has its own mysterious

logic.

The Wizarding Society

The role of the Dragon and the magical community is portrayed with depth and nuance.

- The Dragon is a reclusive, powerful figure with a complex personality.
- Magic is depicted as both a gift and a burden, requiring discipline and moral responsibility.

Main Characters and Character Development

Agnieszka

The protagonist's journey from an ordinary girl to a confident magic-user is central to the novel.

- Initially naive and unsure of herself, Agnieszka's character evolves through trials and mentorship.
- Her connection with the Dragon and her growing magical abilities highlight her resilience.

The Dragon

A mysterious and layered character, the Dragon serves as both mentor and foil to Agnieszka.

- His past and motivations are gradually revealed, adding depth.
- His relationship with Agnieszka challenges traditional notions of heroism and authority.

Supporting Characters

The novel features a diverse cast that enriches the story.

- Kasia, Agnieszka's best friend, who embodies loyalty and bravery.
- The villagers, each with their own stories and fears, reflect the broader societal themes.

Literary Style and Narrative Techniques

Prose and Language

Novik's writing is renowned for its lyrical, fairy-tale quality.

- Her descriptions evoke vivid imagery and emotional resonance.
- The narrative voice combines humor, tension, and poetic elegance.

Structure and Pacing

The novel employs a balanced mix of action, introspection, and world-building.

- The pacing intensifies as Agnieszka uncovers the true nature of the Wood.
- Flashbacks and legends woven into the story deepen the mythic atmosphere.

Critical Reception and Awards

Uprooted received numerous accolades and positive reviews upon publication.

- It was awarded the 2016 Nebula Award for Best Novel.
- Critics praised its inventive storytelling, rich folklore, and strong female protagonist.
- Fans appreciated its fresh take on fairy tale motifs with mature themes.

Themes and Symbolism in Uprooted

Nature and Magic

The Wood symbolizes the unpredictable and sometimes destructive force of nature, intertwined with magic.

- The novel suggests that magic is an extension of natural forces, requiring respect and understanding.
- The relationship between humans and nature is portrayed as complex and symbiotic.

Good versus Evil

While traditional notions of good and evil are present, Novik blurs these boundaries.

- Characters are morally ambiguous, making choices that challenge simplistic dichotomies.
- The narrative emphasizes the importance of personal integrity and moral courage.

Growth and Transformation

Agnieszka's journey reflects themes of personal growth, resilience, and transformation.

- Her acceptance of her own power signifies self-awareness and confidence.
- The novel advocates embracing change and facing fears to achieve true strength.

Adaptations and Cultural Impact

Potential Film and Television Adaptations

As of October 2023, there have been discussions about adapting *Uprooted* into a film or TV series, given its cinematic storytelling and compelling characters. Fans eagerly await official announcements.

Influence on the Genre

Uprooted has contributed to the resurgence of fairy-tale-inspired fantasy, inspiring other authors and storytellers to explore folklore and myth in nuanced ways.

Why *Uprooted* Continues to Resonate

Universal Themes

The novel's exploration of identity, courage, and the natural world resonates universally, making it appealing to a broad audience.

Literary Quality

Novik's lyrical prose and inventive storytelling elevate *Uprooted* beyond typical fantasy fare, earning it critical and reader acclaim.

Strong Female Protagonist

Agnieszka's agency and development serve as a model for empowering female characters in fantasy literature.

Conclusion

Uprooted Book Naomi Novik stands out as a masterful blend of fairy tale magic, richly developed characters, and profound themes. Naomi Novik's storytelling prowess transforms traditional folklore into a compelling narrative about growth, courage, and the mysterious forces that shape our world. Its enduring popularity and critical acclaim underscore its significance in contemporary fantasy literature, making it a must-read for anyone interested in stories that blend myth, magic, and moral complexity. Whether you are a fan of fairy tales, fantasy, or beautifully crafted prose, *Uprooted* offers a captivating journey into a world where magic and nature intertwine, and where personal strength is the greatest magic of all.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main plot of 'Uprooted' by Naomi Novik?

'Uprooted' follows Agnieszka, a young woman chosen by a powerful wizard known as the Dragon to serve him. When the Dark Forest's malevolent forces threaten her homeland, she discovers her own hidden powers and plays a crucial role in saving her world through courage and magic.

How does Naomi Novik incorporate Eastern European folklore into 'Uprooted'?

Naomi Novik draws heavily on Slavic fairy tales and folklore, infusing 'Uprooted' with elements like the mysterious Dark Forest, Baba Jaga-like figures, and magical creatures, creating a richly textured, culturally inspired fantasy world.

Is 'Uprooted' suitable for readers who enjoyed Naomi Novik's 'Temeraire' series?

'Uprooted' is quite different from the 'Temeraire' series, as it is a standalone fantasy novel with a focus on fairy tale themes, magic, and folklore rather than historical aviation and dragons. Fans of Novik's lyrical writing and strong female protagonists will find it compelling.

What are some themes explored in 'Uprooted'?

The novel explores themes of courage, self-discovery, the battle between good and evil, the importance of community, and the power of inner strength and resilience in the face of darkness.

Has 'Uprooted' received any notable awards or recognition?

'Uprooted' was highly acclaimed and received the 2015 Nebula Award for Best Novel and the 2015 Locus Award for Best Fantasy Novel, highlighting its popularity and critical success within the fantasy genre.

Additional Resources

Uprooted Book Naomi Novik: A Deep Dive into a Modern Fairy Tale Masterpiece

In the landscape of contemporary fantasy literature, Naomi Novik's *Uprooted* stands out as a luminous example of storytelling that weaves together folklore, myth, and compelling characters into a richly textured narrative. Since its publication in 2015, the novel has garnered critical acclaim and a dedicated readership, earning prestigious awards such as the Nebula Award for Best Novel and the Alex Award. Its enduring popularity is a testament to Novik's craft—an author known for blending mythic elements with nuanced character development and intricate world-building. This article explores the multifaceted layers of *Uprooted*, examining its plot, themes, characters, and the reasons behind its status as a modern fantasy classic.

The Origins and Context of *Uprooted*

Naomi Novik's Literary Background

Naomi Novik, an American author renowned for her *Temeraire* series—an alternative history set during the Napoleonic Wars featuring dragon-riding military units—brought her distinctive voice to *Uprooted*. Her background in historical fiction and her love for fairy tales deeply inform the novel's style and substance. With *Uprooted*, Novik aimed to craft a standalone fantasy rooted in Eastern European folklore, diverging from her previous historical-fantasy hybrid works.

Inspiration and Cultural Roots

Novik drew inspiration from the rich tapestry of Slavic mythology, folklore, and fairy tales, which often feature complex moral lessons, mystical forests, and powerful witches. The novel's setting—an unnamed Eastern European-inspired land—resonates with the traditional fairy tale landscapes: dense forests, enchanted creatures, and mysterious magicians. Novik's meticulous research into folklore imbues the narrative with authenticity, while her inventive storytelling breathes new life into these

ancient motifs.

Plot Overview: A Richly Woven Tale

The Protagonist: Agnieszka and Her Journey

At the heart of *Uprooted* is Agnieszka, a humble village girl with an innate connection to nature and magic. She is selected by the Dragon—a powerful, enigmatic wizard—who takes her as his apprentice. Unlike typical fairy tale heroines, Agnieszka's character is layered with imperfections, vulnerabilities, and a fierce sense of independence. Her journey from a naive girl to a confident protector encapsulates the novel's core themes.

The Dark Forest and the Dark One

The narrative revolves around the mysterious and dangerous Forest that borders the kingdom. Once a lush, vibrant landscape, it has become corrupted and malevolent, harboring dark creatures and sinister magic. The Forest is not merely a setting but a character in itself, embodying chaos and primal power.

The antagonist, the Dark One, emerges as an ancient evil linked to the Forest's corruption. The novel explores the ongoing battle between human civilization and the encroaching darkness, with Agnieszka at the center of this conflict.

Key Plot Points

- Agnieszka's Selection: Every ten years, the village's most promising girl is chosen by the Dragon to serve as his apprentice. Agnieszka's selection surprises everyone, including herself.
- Training and Discovery: As she trains under the Dragon, Agnieszka uncovers her innate magic and confronts her fears.
- The Forest's Threat: The Forest's growing influence threatens the kingdom, forcing Agnieszka to

confront her destiny.

- The Final Confrontation: A climactic battle against the Dark One, where Agnieszka's unique magic plays a pivotal role.

Themes and Symbolism

Power and Responsibility

Uprooted explores the nature of power—its potential for both destruction and healing. Agnieszka's journey reveals that true strength often resides in understanding oneself and embracing one's vulnerabilities.

Nature and Magic

The novel emphasizes the natural world's interconnectedness, portraying magic as an intrinsic part of the environment. This perspective aligns with pagan and folklore traditions, where nature spirits and mystical forces are intertwined with daily life.

Good vs. Evil and Moral Ambiguity

Rather than a simple dichotomy, the novel presents moral complexity. The Forest and the Dark One symbolize chaos and primal forces, challenging characters to confront difficult choices and moral ambiguity.

Growth and Self-Discovery

Agnieszka's evolution from a carefree girl to a courageous woman underscores themes of personal growth, resilience, and self-acceptance.

Characters: Depth and Development

Agnieszka

A relatable protagonist whose imperfections make her authentic. Her evolution from innocence to maturity is depicted with nuance and empathy.

The Dragon (Sarkan)

A mysterious and centuries-old wizard whose outward aloofness masks deep wisdom and compassion. His mentorship is pivotal to Agnieszka's growth.

Kasia

A close friend of Agnieszka, embodying resilience and pragmatic strength. Her character adds emotional depth and highlights different approaches to adversity.

The Dark One

An embodiment of ancient evil, representing chaos and destruction. The novel's portrayal of the Dark One explores themes of fear, understanding, and redemption.

Literary Style and Reception

Narrative Voice and Prose

Novik's writing combines lyrical descriptions with practical dialogue, creating an immersive reading

experience. Her use of folklore-inspired language and imagery enriches the narrative, making the magic feel tangible and authentic.

Critical Reception

Uprooted received widespread acclaim from critics and readers alike. Reviewers praised Novik's inventive take on fairy-tale tropes, her vivid world-building, and her complex characters. The novel's accessibility and depth have made it a favorite among both casual readers and serious fantasy enthusiasts.

Awards and Honors

The novel's accolades include:

- Nebula Award for Best Novel (2015)
- Locus Award for Best Fantasy Novel (2016)
- Alex Award (2016)

These honors underscore its significance within the genre and its impact on contemporary fantasy literature.

Adaptations and Cultural Impact

Film and TV Adaptation Prospects

As of early 2024, there have been discussions about adapting Uprooted into a visual medium, given its cinematic potential. While no official adaptation has been announced, the novel's vivid imagery and compelling characters make it an appealing candidate for film or television.

Influence on Fantasy Genre

Uprooted has inspired other writers to explore folklore-inspired narratives, emphasizing the importance of cultural roots and moral complexity. Its success has also encouraged publishers to seek diverse and rich fairy-tale retellings.

Fan Community and Cultural Presence

The novel boasts a vibrant fan community that celebrates its themes through fan fiction, art, and discussions. Its influence extends beyond literary circles into popular culture, inspiring cosplay, conventions, and scholarly analyses.

Conclusion: A Modern Fairy Tale for the 21st Century

Uprooted by Naomi Novik exemplifies how traditional folklore can be reimagined to resonate with contemporary audiences. Its blend of mythic themes, complex characters, and evocative prose creates a timeless story that explores universal human experiences—fear, courage, love, and self-discovery. As a modern fairy tale, it reminds us that true magic lies within ourselves, waiting to be uprooted from the darkness and cultivated into strength.

For readers seeking a captivating adventure steeped in folklore yet fresh in its narrative voice, Uprooted offers a compelling journey—one that continues to enchant and inspire long after the last page is turned.

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uprooted book naomi novik: Uprooted Naomi Novik, 2016-03-01 NEBULA AWARD WINNER
• HUGO AWARD FINALIST • “If you want a fantasy with strong characters and brilliantly original variations on ancient stories, try Uprooted!”—Rick Riordan “Breathtaking . . . a tale that is both elegantly grand and earthily humble, familiar as a Grimm fairy tale yet fresh, original, and totally irresistible.”—Publishers Weekly (starred review) ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: NPR, BuzzFeed, Tordotcom, BookPage, Library Journal, Publishers Weekly Agnieszka loves her valley home, her quiet village, the forests and the bright shining river. But the corrupted Wood stands on

the border, full of malevolent power, and its shadow lies over her life. Her people rely on the cold, driven wizard known only as the Dragon to keep its powers at bay. But he demands a terrible price for his help: one young woman handed over to serve him for ten years, a fate almost as terrible as falling to the Wood. The next choosing is fast approaching, and Agnieszka is afraid. She knows—everyone knows—that the Dragon will take Kasia: beautiful, graceful, brave Kasia, all the things Agnieszka isn't, and her dearest friend in the world. And there is no way to save her. But Agnieszka fears the wrong things. For when the Dragon comes, it is not Kasia he will choose. Includes the new bonus short story "The Lake Witch" Praise for Uprooted "Uprooted has leapt forward to claim the title of Best Book I've Read Yet This Year. . . . Moving, heartbreaking, and thoroughly satisfying, Uprooted is the fantasy novel I feel I've been waiting a lifetime for. Clear your schedule before picking it up, because you won't want to put it down."—NPR

uprooted book naomi novik: Uprooted - Lettered Edition Naomi Novik, 2018-12

uprooted book naomi novik: Uprooted - Rare Edition Naomi Novik, 2018-12

uprooted book naomi novik: Spinning Silver Naomi Novik, 2018-07-10 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • "One of the year's strongest fantasy novels" (NPR), an imaginative retelling of the Rumpelstiltskin fairy tale from the bestselling author of Uprooted. NEBULA AND HUGO AWARD FINALIST • NAMED ONE OF PASTE'S BEST FANTASY BOOKS OF THE DECADE • ONE OF THE TEN BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: The New York Public Library With the Nebula Award-winning Uprooted, Naomi Novik opened a brilliant new chapter in an already acclaimed career, delving into the magic of fairy tales to craft a love story that was both timeless and utterly of the now. Spinning Silver draws readers deeper into this glittering realm of fantasy, where the boundary between wonder and terror is thinner than a breath, and safety can be stolen as quickly as a kiss. Miryem is the daughter and granddaughter of moneylenders, but her father's inability to collect his debts has left his family on the edge of poverty—until Miryem takes matters into her own hands. Hardening her heart, the young woman sets out to claim what is owed and soon gains a reputation for being able to turn silver into gold. When an ill-advised boast draws the attention of the king of the Staryk—grim fey creatures who seem more ice than flesh—Miryem's fate, and that of two kingdoms, will be forever altered. She will face an impossible challenge and, along with two unlikely allies, uncover a secret that threatens to consume the lands of humans and Staryk alike. ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: The New York Times Book Review, NPR, Time, Tordotcom, Popsugar, Vox, Vulture, Paste, Bustle, Library Journal "A perfect tale . . . A big and meaty novel, rich in both ideas and people, with the vastness of Tolkien and the empathy and joy in daily life of Le Guin."—The New York Times Book Review "Gorgeous, complex, and magical . . . This is the kind of book that one might wish to inhabit forever."—Publishers Weekly (starred review) "Cool and clever and . . . dire and wonderful."—Laini Taylor, author of Strange the Dreamer "The Rumpelstiltskin fairy tale has never been as captivating. . . . Spinning Silver further cements [Novik's] place as one of the genre greats."—Paste

uprooted book naomi novik: Uprooted Naomi Novik, 2015-05-19 NEBULA AWARD WINNER

• HUGO AWARD FINALIST • "If you want a fantasy with strong characters and brilliantly original variations on ancient stories, try Uprooted!"—Rick Riordan "Breathtaking . . . a tale that is both elegantly grand and earthily humble, familiar as a Grimm fairy tale yet fresh, original, and totally irresistible."—Publishers Weekly (starred review) ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: NPR, BuzzFeed, Tordotcom, BookPage, Library Journal, Publishers Weekly Agnieszka loves her valley home, her quiet village, the forests and the bright shining river. But the corrupted Wood stands on the border, full of malevolent power, and its shadow lies over her life. Her people rely on the cold, driven wizard known only as the Dragon to keep its powers at bay. But he demands a terrible price for his help: one young woman handed over to serve him for ten years, a fate almost as terrible as falling to the Wood. The next choosing is fast approaching, and Agnieszka is afraid. She knows—everyone knows—that the Dragon will take Kasia: beautiful, graceful, brave Kasia, all the things Agnieszka isn't, and her dearest friend in the world. And there is no way to save her. But Agnieszka fears the wrong things. For when the Dragon comes, it is not Kasia he will choose. Praise

for Uprooted “Uprooted has leapt forward to claim the title of Best Book I’ve Read Yet This Year. . . . Moving, heartbreaking, and thoroughly satisfying, Uprooted is the fantasy novel I feel I’ve been waiting a lifetime for. Clear your schedule before picking it up, because you won’t want to put it down.”—NPR

uprooted book naomi novik: The Summer War Naomi Novik, 2025-09-16 In this poignant, heartfelt novella from the New York Times bestselling author of *Spinning Silver* and the *Scholomance* trilogy, a young witch who has inadvertently cursed her brother to live a life without love must find a way to undo her spell. Celia discovered her talent for magic on the day her beloved oldest brother, Argent, left home. Furious at him for abandoning her in a war-torn land, she lashed out, not realizing her childish, angry words would become imbued with the power of prophecy, dooming him to a life without love. While Argent wanders the world, forced to seek only fame and glory instead of the love and belonging he truly desires, Celia attempts to undo the curse she placed on him. Yet even as she grows from a girl to a woman, she cannot find the solution—until she learns the truth about the centuries-old war between her own people and the summerlings, immortal beings who hold a relentless grudge against their mortal neighbors. Now, with the aid of her unwanted middle brother, Celia may be able to both undo her eldest brother’s curse and heal the lands so long torn apart by the Summer War.

uprooted book naomi novik: Uprooted Naomi Novik, 2015-05-21 ‘Bewitching’ – Gregory Maguire, author of *Wicked* **Includes the bonus short story ‘The Lake Witch’ exclusive to this 10th Anniversary Edition** A dark enchantment blights the land in the award-winning *Uprooted* – a captivating fantasy inspired by fairy tales and steeped in Slavic folklore. From the author of *A Deadly Education* and *His Majesty’s Dragon*, Naomi Novik. ‘A great heroine, new takes on old myths and legends, and surprising twists and turns. A delight’ – Cassandra Clare, author of *Sword Catcher* Agnieszka loves her village, set deep in a peaceful valley. But the nearby enchanted forest casts a shadow over her home. Many have been lost to the Wood and none return unchanged. The villagers depend on an ageless wizard, the Dragon, to protect them from the forest’s dark magic. However, his help comes at a terrible price. One young village woman must serve him for ten years, leaving all they love and value behind. The next choosing is fast approaching, and Agnieszka fears her dearest friend Kasia will be picked next, for she’s everything Agnieszka is not – beautiful, graceful and brave. Yet when the Dragon comes, it’s not Kasia he takes . . . *Uprooted* is a stunning, romantic fantasy filled with unexpected twists, beautiful friendships and fierce battles against dark forces. Winner of the Nebula Award for Best Novel Winner of the Locus Award for Best Fantasy Novel Winner of the British Fantasy Society Award for Best Novel Shortlisted for the World Fantasy Award for Best Novel Shortlisted for the Hugo Award for Best Novel *** Praise for *Uprooted*: ‘So vividly believable that it almost seems you could work the spells’ — Ursula K. Le Guin, award-winning author of *A Wizard of Earthsea* ‘*Uprooted* has everything I love about Novik’s writing’ — Patrick Rothfuss, No. 1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Kingkiller Chronicle* series ‘*Uprooted* by Naomi Novik is enchanting, in every sense’ — Robin Hobb, bestselling author of *Assassin’s Apprentice*

uprooted book naomi novik: A Cultural History of Fairy Tales in the Modern Age Andrew Teverson, 2021-07-15 How have fairy tales from around the world changed over the centuries? What do they tell us about different cultures and societies? Drawing together contributions from an international range of scholars in history, literature, and cultural studies, this volume uniquely examines creative applications of fairy tales in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. It explores how the fairy tale has become a genre that flourishes on film, on TV, and in digital media, as well as in the older technologies of print, performance, and the visual arts. An essential resource for researchers, scholars and students of literature, history, the visual arts and cultural studies, this book explores such themes and topics as: forms of the marvelous, adaptation, gender and sexuality, humans and non-humans, monsters and the monstrous, spaces, socialization, and power. *A Cultural History of Fairy Tales* (6-volume set) *A Cultural History of Fairy Tales in Antiquity* is also available as a part of a 6-volume set, *A Cultural History of Fairy Tales*, tracing fairy tales from antiquity to the present day, available in print, or within a fully-searchable digital library accessible through

institutions by annual subscription or on perpetual access (see www.bloomsburyculturalhistory.com). Individual volumes for academics and researchers interested in specific historical periods are also available digitally via www.bloomsburycollections.com.

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uprooted book naomi novik: *The Year's Best Science Fiction: Thirty-Third Annual Collection* Gardner Dozois, 2016-07-05 Presents some of the best science fiction short stories written in 2015.

uprooted book naomi novik: *Spinning Silver* Naomi Novik, 2018-07-10 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • "One of the year's strongest fantasy novels" (NPR), an imaginative retelling of the Rumpelstiltskin fairy tale from the bestselling author of *Uprooted*. NEBULA AND HUGO AWARD FINALIST • NAMED ONE OF PASTE'S BEST FANTASY BOOKS OF THE DECADE • ONE OF THE TEN BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: The New York Public Library With the Nebula Award-winning *Uprooted*, Naomi Novik opened a brilliant new chapter in an already acclaimed career, delving into the magic of fairy tales to craft a love story that was both timeless and utterly of the now. *Spinning Silver* draws readers deeper into this glittering realm of fantasy, where the boundary between wonder and terror is thinner than a breath, and safety can be stolen as quickly as a kiss. Miryem is the daughter and granddaughter of moneylenders, but her father's inability to collect his debts has left his family on the edge of poverty—until Miryem takes matters into her own hands. Hardening her heart, the young woman sets out to claim what is owed and soon gains a reputation for being able to turn silver into gold. When an ill-advised boast draws the attention of the king of the Saryk—grim fey creatures who seem more ice than flesh—Miryem's fate, and that of two kingdoms, will be forever altered. She will face an impossible challenge and, along with two unlikely allies, uncover a secret that threatens to consume the lands of humans and Saryk alike. ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: The New York Times Book Review, NPR, Time, Tordotcom, Popsugar, Vox, Vulture, Paste, Bustle, Library Journal "A perfect tale . . . A big and meaty novel, rich in both ideas and people, with the vastness of Tolkien and the empathy and joy in daily life of Le Guin."—The

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