



## **In the Forests of the Night** **A Middle Grade Novel by Alison Hughes**

Forthcoming October 2024

Rights available: World ex-Canada and the US; Graphic novel, dramatic.

*When her friend Lora mysteriously disappears from their orphanage, Ellis knows something terrible has happened.*

It is when Ellis is put in charge of Pip, a small, mute, strange new arrival, that ominous things begin happening, particularly around the “Ghost Tree” in the school field.

Ellis, Pip, and their friend Jasper are kidnapped by their teacher, hijacked by a huge, bizarre pterodactyl-like creature, and brought to a desert work-camp to await the arrival of the sinister “Mother Dear,” who is determined to destroy the natural world and create a new hybrid-robotic one. A desperate escape from the camp has Ellis, Jasper and Pip fleeing down subterranean tunnels with Mother Dear’s creatures in pursuit.

They encounter unlikely allies that pull them toward the shadowy forests of the night and an idyllic settlement called The Grove, where a group of humans and human-green hybrids live in harmony with nature.

As Mother Dear’s forces close in, Pip’s destiny becomes clear — she is nature’s secret weapon, a seedling of the ancient tree, ready to concentrate her powers and take her place as a guardian of the life forces of the natural world.

### **The Author**

Alison Hughes is the award-winning author of twenty books for children and young adults. Her YA novel *Hit the Ground Running* was a finalist for the Governor General’s Literary Awards. Hughes’ works have also won the R. Ross Annett Award and the Writers’ Union of Canada Writing for Children Award, and have been nominated for numerous provincial children’s choice awards. Hughes is a university writing advisor and gives workshops and presentations at schools, libraries, conferences and festivals. She lives in Edmonton, Alberta.

### **Praise for previous works:**

*Life Expectancy*

“Alison Hughes has crafted a narrative so deeply excruciating and beautiful it defied my initial expectations. I will not spoil the story as it is one that you absolutely must read.”

– Stephanie Lamb, *Storytime with Stephanie*

“This moody, feisty, clumsy character may prod her young adult readers into looking at their own lives, perhaps realizing just how precious their time is and how important it is for all of us to live our lives fully each and every day.”

– Ann Ketcheson, *CM: Canadian Review of Materials*



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