



2006

The Fairies of Nutfolk Wood

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Streeter, Gillian gstreeter@fortbend.lib.tx.us (2006) "The Fairies of Nutfolk Wood," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 27 : Iss. 1 , Article 9.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol27/iss1/9>

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Ullman, Barb Bentler. *The Fairies of Nutfolk Wood*. HarperCollins, 2006. ISBN 0060736143.
\$15.99. 256 p.

Reviewer: Gillian Streeter

Reading Level: Primary, Intermediate

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Fairy tales; Fantasy Fiction;

Subject: Divorce--Juvenile fiction; Fairies--Juvenile fiction; Friendship--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Willa Jane's parents have recently divorced, leaving her an emotional and physical wreck. She can't think of food without being queasy and can't think of her broken family without being sad. She and her mother move to the rural town of Plunkit, where Willa begins seeing small, sparkling people and tiny stick cottages. After hearing stories of a similar small people from her neighbor, Hazel Wicket, she enlists Hazel's handy man, 17-year-old Vincent Meeker, to settle the mystery of these little people. But a past tragedy in Vincent's family threatens the search, Willa, Hazel, and the peace of Nutfolk Wood.

The Fairies of Nutfolk Wood is a gentle story about pain, change, and healing. Readers should look elsewhere for a complex story, and the story drags while Hazel is describing the NutFolk, but Ullman's tale is a pleasant afternoon's read. Willa, her family, and her friends are endearing characters and the plot's conflict manages to be successful without a villainous antagonist. This story may appeal to fantasy lovers looking for a fresh take on fairies, but is more valuable for Willa's relationships with those around her.