



2018

The Hazel Wood

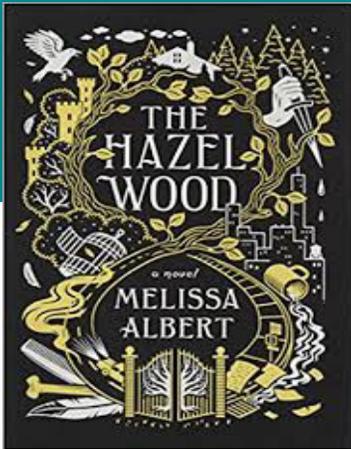
Karen Abbott

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Abbott, Karen (2018) "The Hazel Wood," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 39 : Iss. 5 , Article 81.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol39/iss5/81>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.



Book Review

The Hazel Wood

Author

Melissa Albert

Illustrator

N/A

Reviewer

Karen Abbott

Rating

Outstanding

Level

Young Adult

Pages

368

Year

2018

Publisher

Flatiron Books

ISBN

9781250147905

Hazel Wood is an estate that belongs to Alice's grandmother, a woman that she has read about but never met. Alice and her mother, Ella, move constantly in an effort to stay one step ahead of the "bad luck" that pursues them relentlessly from one place to the next. Unfortunately, fate has a way of catching up to you. Alice comes home from school one day to find that her mother, step father, and step sister are missing. Alice flees to a friend's home, the home of wealthy Emery Finch. Emery is a fan of Alice's grandmother's book, "The Hinterland," that has a well established cult following. Thus begins Alice's journey to find her mother, the Hinterland, and her destiny. Alice eventually finds her mother, a home, and a new future for herself.

Nature or nurture is one of the main themes of "The Hazelwood." Is Alice the girl that Ella raised in this world, or an evil princess in the fairytale that she was created to play in? Are we destined to play out a story pre-written by fate, or are we able to choose our own destiny? Alice is a complex character, as are most teens, and has been shielded by her mother from her true origins for all of her life. Much like a person searching for their birth parents, Alice finds herself confronted with an ugly truth about who she really is. This plot twist creates many interesting questions with a satisfying resolution as Alice, with the help of her friends realizes that who she is is her own choice; who she loves is her decision; and that who she becomes will be the most exciting adventure of all. This is a really outstanding story.

*Contains severe language, severe violence, and mild sexual content.