



2020

The Mulberry Tree

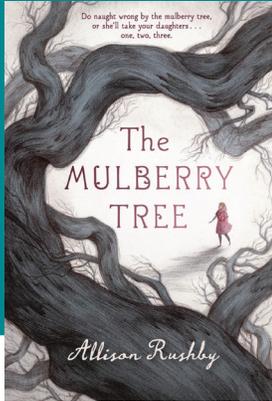
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Book Review

The Mulberry Tree

Author

Allison Rushby

Reviewer

Taylor Bitton

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Rating

Excellent

Level

Intermediate

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Pages

287

Year

2018

ISBN

9781536207613

Publisher

Candlewick Press

A few weeks before her eleventh birthday, Immy and her parents move to a tiny town in rural England. In their new backyard grows a black and menacing mulberry tree. Local legend says the tree is cursed, that it makes young girls disappear on the nights before their eleventh birthdays. It has happened twice before, and now that Immy is living in the house, the whole village fears it will happen again. Undeterred, Immy decides to investigate this mystery. Seeking information about the two girls who went missing, Immy begins to put the pieces together and help the village find acceptance and healing.

This book teaches heartwarming lessons about change and forgiveness. Rushby's writing masterfully displays the complicated nature of the characters' relationships. Immy's father struggles with depression, and the forgiveness that she is able to offer him parallels the forgiveness that people in the village are able to offer. These changes lead to happier futures for everyone, showing readers how positive changes can have important impacts. The pacing of the story is even, and the prose is intriguing, so this page-turning mystery will keep readers engaged until the very end.