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Uprooted

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Novik, Naomi. *Uprooted*. New York: Del Rey, 2015. Popular Reading, PS3614.O93U67 2015.

“We were all living in a song: that was how it felt.” – page 234

Dvernik is only one of the villages protected from the evils of the encroaching Wood by the wizard known as the Dragon. And as payment for his protection, every ten years the Dragon chooses a girl from one of those villages to take back to his tower. The next choosing is fast approaching, but Agnieszka knows she won't be taken; everyone in Dvernik knows it will be Kasia who leaves for the tower. But when the Dragon comes and skips over Kasia, Agnieszka finds herself whisked away from family and friends to live with a wizard who seems very upset to have chosen her. And to make matters worse, it seems Agnieszka just might be a witch.

Agnieszka isn't sure what to do with herself; she doesn't want to live with the wizard and she certainly doesn't want to learn magic. And the Dragon seems just as unhappy as she is. But everything changes when the beacons in Dvernik are lit to signal an assault by the Wood and she is forced to try to save her village alone. It's clear that this is only the first stage in the Wood's far-reaching plan to swallow as much of the land and its people as possible. Agnieszka has always known the Wood was a malevolent presence that should be avoided, but she is quickly realizing that the Wood isn't just the creeping branches, vines, and trees that slowly devour entire cities near to her own and isn't just in the weird and misshapen creatures that live among the vegetation, snatching up anyone who comes too close. The Wood is a conscious presence and the Wood is everywhere. Agnieszka has no idea how to stop it.

Uprooted, *New York Times* bestselling author Naomi Novik's newest work, is a Nebula Award for Best Novel winner and has received multiple starred reviews. A tale focused squarely on its heroine, Agnieszka is stubborn, loyal, caring, and too practical for the politics of the royal court and family, though that doesn't keep her from ending up in the middle of a brewing war. She is the type of fairy tale protagonist who needs friendship more than she needs saving, and ultimately, she creates her own twist on the prince-and-castle ending. Rooted in folklore and legend, this is a tale spun through with magic, with the spirit of a song at its core.