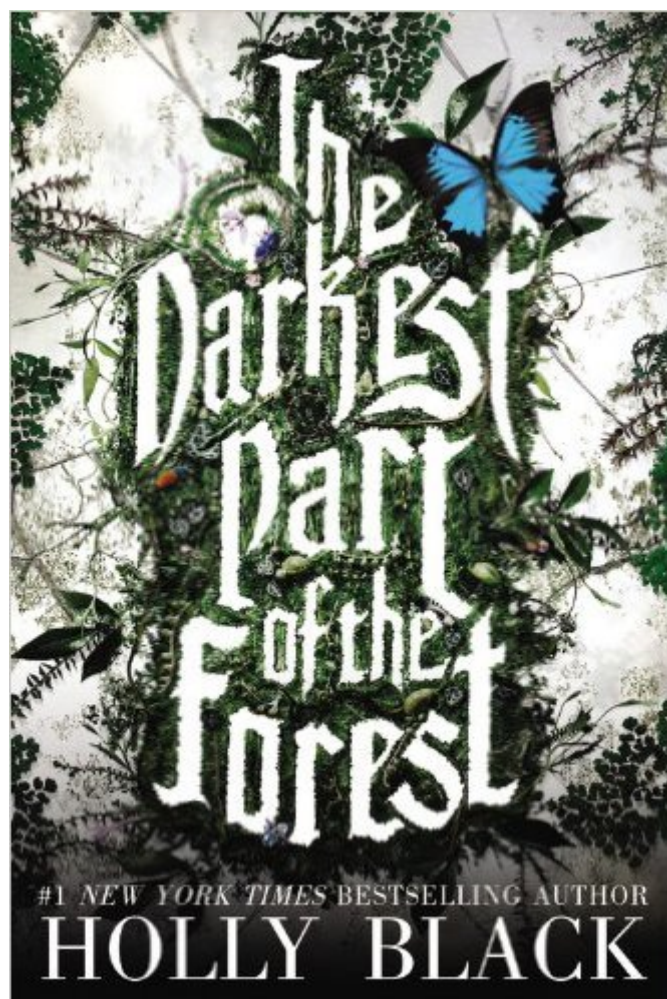


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The Darkest Part Of The Forest



Synopsis

In the woods is a glass coffin. It rests on the ground, and in it sleeps a boy with horns on his head and ears as pointed as knives....Hazel and her brother, Ben, live in Fairfold, where humans and the Folk exist side by side. Tourists drive in to see the lush wonders of Faerie and, most wonderful of all, the horned boy. But visitors fail to see the danger. Since they were children, Hazel and Ben have been telling each other stories about the boy in the glass coffin, that he is a prince and they are valiant knights, pretending their prince would be different from the other faeries, the ones who made cruel bargains, lurked in the shadows of trees, and doomed tourists. But as Hazel grows up, she puts aside those stories. Hazel knows the horned boy will never wake. Until one day, he does....As the world turns upside down, Hazel has to become the knight she once pretended to be. But as she's swept up in new love, with shifting loyalties and the fresh sting of betrayal, will it be enough? *The Darkest Part of the Forest*, is the bestselling author Holly Black's triumphant return to the opulent, enchanting faerie tales that launched her YA career.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is my new favorite Holly Black book. This book has been on my 2015 Most Anticipated To Read Lists, and it definitely lived up to the hype I had hoped it would. *The Darkest Part of the Forest* is a story I loved. Holly Black's writing is engaging, and easily lured me into this enchanting, dark world where humans and fae exist. Holly Black and the fae world are a match made in YA awesomeness. No one can write fae like she can. She has this ability to make them alluring, but she

doesn't go all Hollywood with them. Meaning she's doesn't overly glamorizing them. True to the tales about fae, they are just as beautiful, as they are creepy looking. Being creatures of the woods, Black describes them just as I had imagined they would look. I felt that I would have thought the same things about them, as Hazel did. There is more to them than just their looks. As Hazel finds out, the fae are also cunning, dangerous, and are known to have a way with words. Though they can't lie, there can be a double meaning in their words. Things may not be done as one perceives things to happen, as Hazel realizes. Once you make a deal with them, they uphold their end of the bargain and excerpt nothing less from Hazel. Though the fae are cunning, Hazel proves she can be just as cunning as they are. I loved what she does towards the end of the book. If you guessed that I am not going to say what that is, then you would be right. I'm keeping this a spoiler free review. I'll just say that Hazel proves she can hold her own with the Fae. One of the things I like about Holly Black's characters, is that all of them are broken in some way. Which translates to, they're all relatable on some level. I like that they're flawed, and imperfect. It makes it easier for me to sympathize with them, and understand, at least on some level, why they make the decisions they do. I like seeing their weakness, and their strengths, and how they learn from their weaknesses. Black's characters are not victims of their weaknesses. They learn how to turn their weaknesses into strengths to accomplish their goal/destiny/purpose. Oh the setting! I love a forest setting. This setting was perfect. It's one that is exciting, alluring, beautiful, dark, dangerous, and the perfect place for two young kids to set off on great adventures. I really enjoyed the flashbacks to the adventures that Hazel and Ben had when they were young. There's a lot that readers discover from these flashbacks, about the characters, and what's happening now with the fae posing such a huge danger to their human world. There are so many elements to this setting that I loved. Much of the story takes place in the forest. Black does a fabulous job in the way she tied each character to the setting. I'm not going to lie, if I lived in the same tiny town Hazel did, along the edge of the wood, I'd most likely have found myself wondering the woods with her, her brother Ben, and their friend Jack, when they were younger. I felt like the setting was it's own character in the story. True to Holly Black's writing, one of the things I loved the most about this book, is everything is NOT what it seems. There are many layers with this book that Black beautiful unravels. With each unravel, she reveals another twist or turn within her plot. I really like how the story was written. Yes it has is dark. No, it's not as dark as some of her other YA books. I think this is one of her best books. I love that this is a stand alone, even though part of me wishes there was going to be a continuation of this story. I think Holly Black fans will enjoy this. If you've not read a YA book by Holly Black, this is a great first book to pick up. *There is some very mild language and under age drinking in this story.

What a queer, queer book. I am not quite sure how to begin this review. Hell, I'm not even sure how I would categorize this book. Is this a fairytale? Well, yes, it does have some fairytale aspects. Is this fantasy? Um yes, but not in the "slay the dragon and find the rings" sort of way. Is this about character development? Yes, that too, it's a bit of a coming of age story. Is there a mystery? Yep. Romance? Yep. Oh, and did I mention all of this takes place in the modern world in a quaint little town named Fairfold? This book was so bizarre it was strangely satisfying. I loved the whole setting of Fairfold...it kind of reminds me of the town in *The Scorpio Races* (can't think of the name right now). I think setting and world building was probably one of my favorite aspects of *The Darkest Part of the Forest*. Holly Black has a vivid imagination that translates well onto paper. And mind you, these aren't nice fairies you're dealing with--these are cruel, manipulative faes. Much of the book is told from Hazel's point of view, with a few chapters from Ben's (her brother) and the "the horned boy". I really enjoyed Hazel's character--she grew up on a healthy diet of fairytales splashed with reality. Somehow, she managed to maintain that wonder as she grew into her teen years, though she does develop a sense of cynicism as well. I guess I should also mention there's a lot of flashbacks going on--so readers who despise them, be warned! I personally didn't mind the flashbacks for most part, because they revealed more about the characters. I only got annoyed when the flashbacks got a bit too long (so over 2 pages, by my books.) Okay, last but not least: the plot. The plot the plot the plot....I think it's both the strongest and weakest point of the book. The thing is, there really is no clear plot/goal for the first 1/2 to 2/3 of the story. You know how in most books you know the main story arch once you're about a 1/4 in? (ie. the hero must save the girl. the girl must escape the school. MC must survive the hunger games...) Yeah. That didn't happen here. The thing is, the entire storyline is so strange...it's almost as if this book was broken up into "movements" (musicians, ya'll understand me here.) The first "movement" was setting the scene, the second is about the "horned boy mystery" and flashbacks to Hazel's past, and the last movement is the "action" portion--you know, all the kick ass monster fighting stuff. As for pacing...don't read this book if you're looking for a page turner. Do read this book if you want to get immersed in a strange but familiar world.

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