THE FOREST BECOMES HER

by Julie Carrick Dalton



"A lush, lyrical exploration of sisterhood, rage, and the sacred ties between women and the wild. -- Sarah Penner, NYT bestselling author of The Amalfi Curse

"Dalton writes with extraordinary power and beauty about both the outside wilderness and the wildness inside women's bodies, connecting the two in surprising and magnificent ways. A primal scream and an exhilarating and unforgettable novel." -- Katie Gutierrez, author of GMA Book Club pick More Than You'll Ever Know

LOGLINE:

In a New England town where an old-growth forest has been cleared to make way for cookiecutter, eco-friendly homes, three women haunted by phantom trees must save the last remaining oak before they lose themselves to the shadows only they can see.

Genre/Tone:

Psychological Thriller / Magical Realism / Eco-Feminist / Lyrical / Darkly Enchanting They razed an ancient forest, but awakened something wilder —women.



Comps:

Nightbitch (HBO), Yellowjackets (Paramount+) The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart (Prime Video)

Synopsis

In historic Concord, Massachusetts, a centuries-old forest has been clear-cut to build a gleaming, eco-friendly housing development. While out-of-towners flock to buy "guilt-free" homes, the land has not forgotten what was lost. Three women—Polly, a friendless 13-year-old; Hazel, a young wife grieving a miscarriage; and Stella, a lonely, menopausal real estate agent—are each drawn to the last remaining oak, the sole survivor of the old-growth forest. As phantom trees and unsettling visions blur the line between reality and dream, the women's lives intertwine. Together, they must save the sentient oak or risk being consumed by the forest's lingering shadows. A celebration of sisterhood, female rage, and the ever-evolving female form, *The Forest Becomes Her* explores our connections to land, body, and each other—and how these attachments transcend mortality and time.

About the Author

A former beekeeper and organic farmer, Julie Carrick Dalton is the author of *The Last Beekeeper*, longlisted for the Massachusetts Book Award, and *Waiting for the Night Song*, a Most Anticipated novel by CNN, Newsweek, and USA Today. She teaches in Drexel University's MFA Program and speaks about Fiction in the Age of Climate Crisis at universities, museums, and conferences, worldwide. *The Forest Becomes Her* will be released by St. Martin's Press in 2026.

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