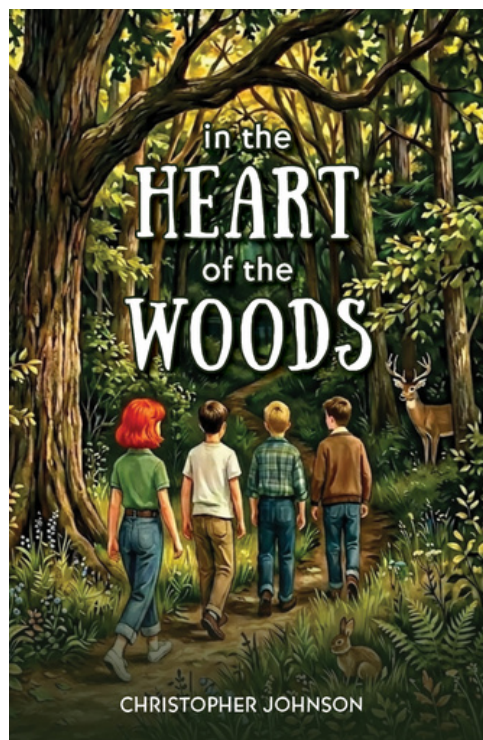


In the Heart of the Woods



A BOY, A FOREST, AND THE SUMMER THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING.

Set in a small Ohio town in the summer of 1957, *In the Heart of the Woods* follows ten-year-old Herbie Hereford as he joins three neighborhood kids—bold Tommy, inquisitive Skeeter, and unpredictable Roger—to explore the woods on the edge of their town, one of the last remnants of the great eastern forest that once stretched across the American Midwest. Over one remarkable summer, the four friends wade into ponds, track wildlife, build a boat, and learn to read the rhythms of a wild place that becomes as familiar to them as home. For Herbie, shy and uncertain, the woods offer something he can't find anywhere else: the chance to discover what he's made of.

But the woods are only part of the story. At home, Herbie's father is a man of silences and sudden anger, and as the summer unfolds, Herbie learns that courage isn't only something you find in the forest. Rich in period detail and lyrical in its depiction of the natural world, *In the Heart of the Woods* is a coming-of-age story for young adult readers and anyone who remembers what it felt like to be young.

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“Maybe this is how we save the world around us—through the eyes of children who can see the magic that fades in the years spent growing old.”

—*Bill Kurtis, television journalist, author, and environmentalist*

For fans of *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo, *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen, and *Dandelion Wine* by Ray Bradbury.

Christopher Johnson is a writer based in the Chicago area. A former merchant seaman, high school English teacher, and textbook-publishing executive, he is the author of two nonfiction books on America's forests and wilderness heritage. His work has appeared in *The Progressive*, *Mother Earth News*, *American Forests*, and other publications. He holds a BA from the University of Notre Dame and an MA from Northwestern University.

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