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# And The Trees Crept In



## Synopsis

A stunning, terrifying novel about a house the color of blood and the two sisters who are trapped there, by The Dead House author Dawn Kurtagich When Silla and Nori arrive at their aunt's home, it's immediately clear that the "blood manor" is cursed. The creaking of the house and the stillness of the woods surrounding them would be enough of a sign, but there are secrets too--the questions that Silla can't ignore: Who is the beautiful boy that's appeared from the woods? Who is the man that her little sister sees, but no one else? And why does it seem that, ever since they arrived, the trees have been creeping closer? Filled with just as many twists and turns as The Dead House, and with achingly beautiful, chilling language that delivers haunting scenes, **AND THE TREES CREPT IN** is the perfect follow-up novel for master horror writer Dawn Kurtagich.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I'm a fan of Dawn Kurtagich ever since I read The Dead House. I love creepy books but have a hard time finding ones that I like. Most of the time I don't get scared by books and I hate that. Kurtagich

has a way to creep me out. Yes, I'm that weirdo that wants to get scared by a book. Psychological thriller is one of my favorite genre types because they are weird. They are usually filled to the brim with weirdness and this book is no exception. I spent so much time trying to figure out what was happening. Was Silla going crazy like her aunt? Who was this mysterious guy that kept showing up? Was the house haunted? Were the trees really creeping in? Thankfully my questions do get answered. Silla was an odd character. I understood she was trying to protect her sister and all but I would have fled that house the first chance I got. I would rather try to face the creeper man than stay to see what would happen. Especially, when the garden died and my aunt went crazy. She was a strong character though. She truly loved her sister and did everything she thought was right to protect her. At first, I thought the romance with Gowan was weird and I didn't know if I could trust him but I ended up liking him in the end. The ending was insane! I didn't know what was real or what was a trick. When the truth was finally revealed I was shocked! Bravo, to the author for writing such a great book.

Silla and Nori arrive at their aunt's home, a decrepit manor the color of blood. Even though Silla knows there's something wrong with the house, it's better than the terrifying circumstances she and her sister left behind. But food is running low, and the forest around the manor seems to be creeping closer. Silla knows she and Nori must go, but something lurks in the woods, something that won't let them leave. There's a rhythm to the text in *And the Trees Crept In*. It's poetic at times, asking the reader to discern meaning from few words: "Circling, circling, circling the loom . . . 'Stop it. Please . . . Stop it.' From beyond the door, I hear a faint shuffling like something dragging itself closer. I hear the thumping of something meaty and heavy, like the sound of an object rolling and falling down the stairs. One at a time. Closer. The sound changes. Stops. And then I hear a giggle." This strange tale is peppered throughout with journal entries written by various characters. These entries - presented as journal pages or handwritten notes - add a visual richness to the book. Going one step further, letter placement and font size are sometimes manipulated to infuse additional meaning. It's a technique not often used in print, one that makes this book unique. The story itself has dark undertones and the creep factor occasionally hits a high note: "There is a flash of a different monster in her eyes and I shrink back. I don't like it when she looks like Daddy. I look over at the tall, smiling man in the corner but [she] doesn't seem to mind him staring at us, even though he has no eyes, so I go back to being very, very still." The book's only flaw is its cryptic approach to storytelling. Much of the time it's easy to follow, but there are moments when what transpires on the page is baffling. It's the author's use of language - both sensory and

haunting - that holds the reader hostage to this unnerving story."The farther I travel through Python, the trees of which thrash and move around me in the wind like dancing voodoo priests, the deeper the mud gets. Ankle. Midcalf. Knee. Before I know it, I'm wading through icy mud that clings and sticks and squelches as I go."And the Trees Crept In is a chilling tale with unexpected twists where fantasy elements creep into the real world and readers are escorted to shadowy places where nightmares roam.

What a wonderfully creepy book from Dawn Kurtagich! I became a huge fan of Kurtagich's work in THE DEAD HOUSE, and what she does with AND THE TREES CREPT IN is turn up the paranoia and scares to an 11. This is not a book full of jump scares, rather one where the horror is far more insidious and creeps into you. Silla is a sympathetic main character trapped in a decaying family mansion with her mad aunt and mute younger sister. When a young man who once stayed at the house befriends Silla and urges her to leave before the house consumes her and Nori, she must decide if he truly is friend and will help her or if the world outside is as vacant and terrifying as it seems. Kurtagich likes to leave notes and passages for readers to "find" in a way reminiscent of Danielzewski's HOUSE OF LEAVES, and the effect is as unsettling as the story unraveling across the pages. Recommended for: teen readers, ages 15+, adults who read YA, horror readers, librarians, school teachers, school libraries, suspense readers, fans of Danielzewski, psychological thriller readers, psychological horror fans, gothic fans.

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