

Summary of DISENCHANTED Book One

“Once upon a time, deep inside a forest intertwined with its own branches, there stood two of the tallest trees no one had ever seen.” It was from their branching arms that a magical, knotty cradle twisted into wooden life, revealing a baby girl whom they named Elodie (*El-ah-dee*). This enchanted girl who lives between two worlds belongs to a tree bearing an exotic, bejeweled flower with magical medicinal properties. Regrettably, the only thing her flower cannot protect against or cure is the splintering of a tree’s heart by way of an axe.

As a citizen of the timbered land, Elodie perceives a mortal threat to the trees, a huntsman come to the forest. Cleverly, Elodie permits his attentions in exchange for the acquisition of his weapons, in particular, his axe. Unbeknownst to Elodie, with each weapon she comes to possess, an invisible veil of disenchantment slowly dulls her unique senses of the forest.

Meanwhile, pressed by a deadly plague threatening the life of his son, the King orders the vast, impenetrable forest burned to its core where the fabled flower is said to exist. Tragically, the charnel spell of disenchantment, having taken its wicked hold, entombs Elodie inside the fire-doomed forest. Much taken with this girl of uncommon beauty, how can the huntsman hope to rescue Elodie from a place where all he perceives is simply trees?

Divided into two parts, the book’s intersecting characters and plot are the dark architecture for a world in which the healing flower is much more than it first appears to be. With the forest stage set, part two flips the happily ever after tale on its head when

a tragic scene of fraudulent love warps the life of a similarly enchanted girl named Cyrielle (*Sir-elle*). On discovery of Elodie’s flower, the haggard Cyrielle uses the blossom’s awesome powers to become Queen. With the military support of the Kingdom, the Queen ventures into the woodland to uncover one last secret of the forest.

