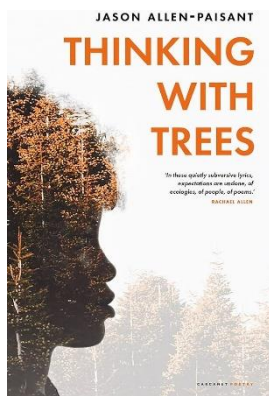


Forest Reading List

Wider Reading to Enrich A-Level Curriculum for
A-Level Biology and A-Level Geography

Created by Dion Dobryznski and John Holmes



Jason Allen-Paisant

***Thinking with
Trees (2021)***

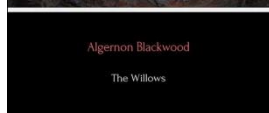
Poetry collection by Jamaican-born poet exploring the racial politics of walking in an English woodland in the twenty-first century



Algernon
Blackwood

***The Willows
(1907)***

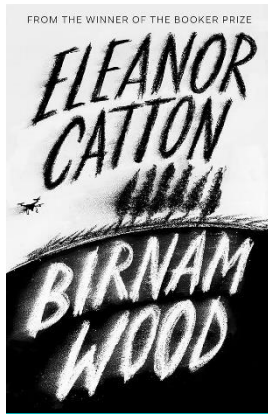
A supernatural tale of two friends canoeing down the willow-shadowed Danube



Italo Calvino

***The Baron in the
Trees (1952)***

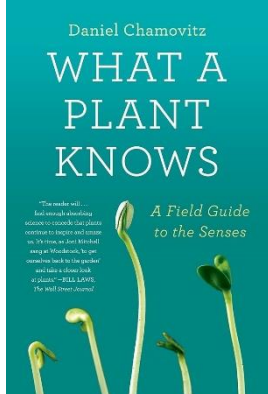
A novel about an Italian aristocrat who decides to live his entire life in a canopy of trees



Eleanor Catton

***Birnam Wood*
(2023)**

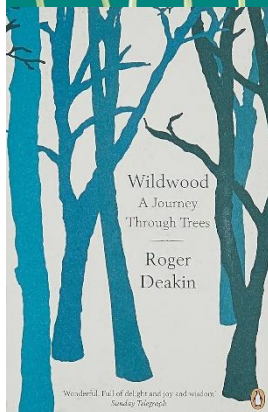
A dramatic novel about a guerilla gardening group and the fight for survival



Daniel Chamovitz

***What a Plant Knows*
(2013)**

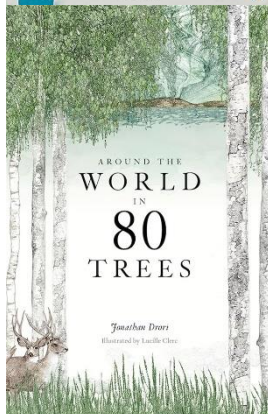
Biologist Daniel Chamovitz describes the weird and wonderful ways plants experience the world through the senses



Roger Deakin

***Wildwood: A Journey Through Trees*
(2008)**

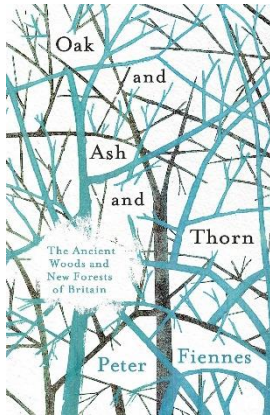
Part autobiography, part natural history, the nature writer explores humanity's relationship with trees around the world



Jonathan Drori and
Lucille Clerc

***Around the World in 80 Trees*
(2018)**

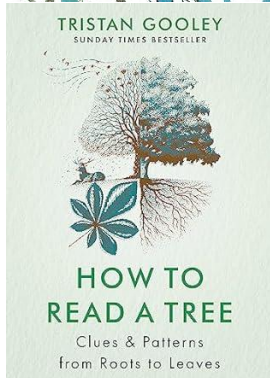
Environmentalist travels around the world telling the fascinating stories of eighty trees



Peter Fiennes

Oak and Ash and Thorn: The Ancient Woods and New Forests of Britain (2017)

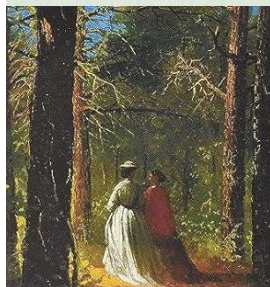
Exploration of the history and future of Britain's woodlands



Tristan Gooley

How to Read a Tree (2023)

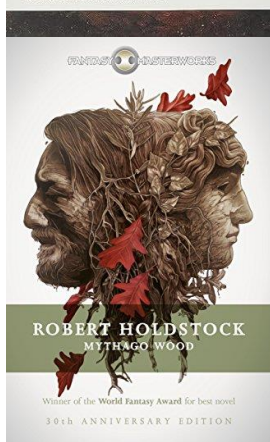
A guide which trains the art of reading trees, revealing clues about the wider environment



Thomas Hardy

The Woodlanders (1887)

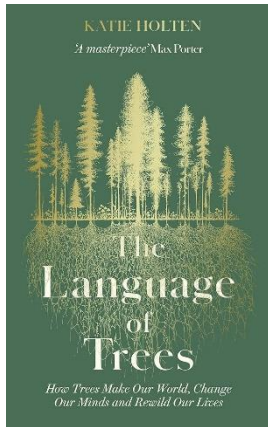
A novel following the entwined lives of a woodland community at the end of the nineteenth century



Robert Holdstock

Mythago Wood (1984)

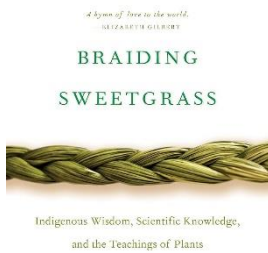
Fantasy novel about a mysterious ancient woodland that warps time and is inhabited with mythical figures from the deep past



Holten, Kate

***The Language of
Trees: How Trees
Make Our
World, Change
Our Minds and
Rewild Our Lives
(2023)***

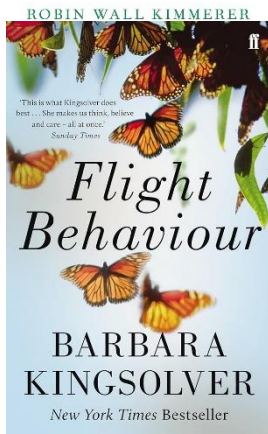
An illustrated international miscellany of short essays and extracts from artists, activists, and ecologists communicating the power of trees



Robin Wall
Kimmerer

***Braiding
Sweetgrass
(2013)***

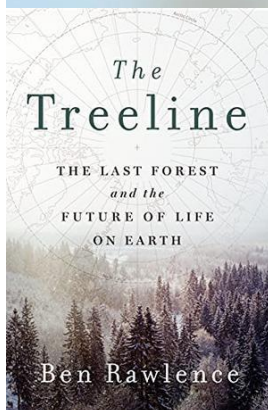
Botanist and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Kimmerer braids scientific knowledge and indigenous wisdom together to celebrate the living world



Barbara Kingsolver

***Flight Behaviour
(2012)***

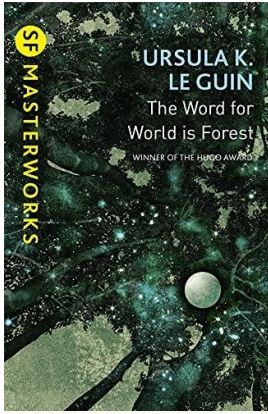
A gripping novel which follows the story of a young mother in a religious facing the realities of climate change in the form of millions of monarch butterflies



Ben Lawrence

***Treeline: The
Last Forest and
the Future Life
on Earth (2022)***

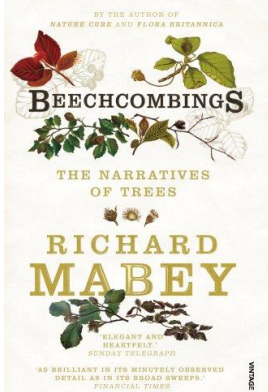
A powerful book about the impact of climate change on the shifting forests of the northern hemisphere and the possibility of hope for the future



Ursula K. Le Guin

***The Word for World is Forest* (1972)**

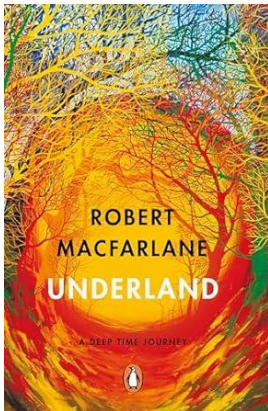
A science fiction novella set on an alien forest planet in which a divergent species of human living sustainably faces the threat of deforestation and colonialism from Earth



Richard Mabey

***Beechcombings* (2008)**

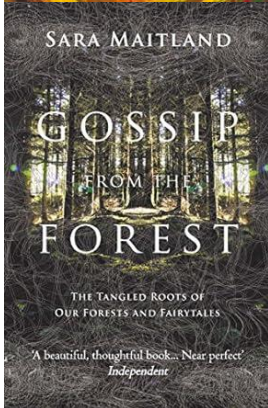
Nature writer reveals the significance and meanings of beech trees



Robert Macfarlane

***Underland* (2020)**

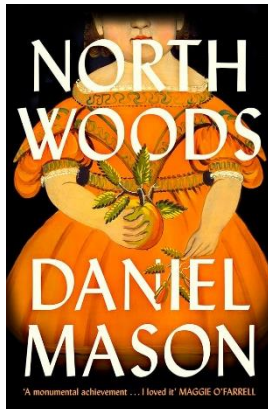
A subterranean journey through forest fungal networks, urban tunnels, pitch-black caves, and mysterious burial chambers around the world



Sara Maitland

***Gossip from the Forest: The Tangled Roots of Forests and Fairytales* (2013)**

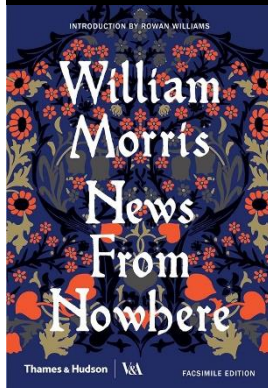
Maitland visits woods and forests across the UK, seeking to understand the deep dark woods in European folklore and fairytales, re-telling them at the end of each chapter in imaginative ways



Daniel Mason

North Woods
(2023)

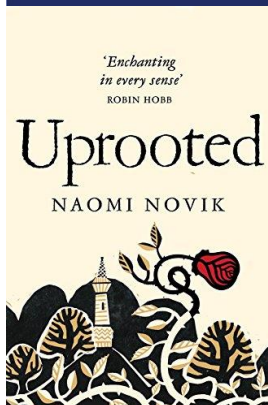
A genre-bending novel centring on a single house in the woods of New England over four centuries, whose occupants' lives become strangely intertwined



William Morris

News from Nowhere
(1890)

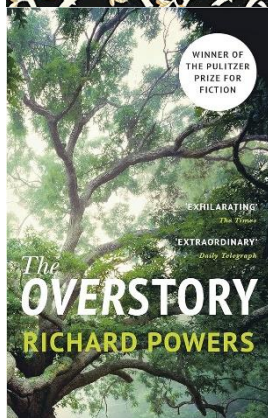
A late Victorian vision of London in the year 2090 as a sustainable urban forest



Naomi Novik

Uprooted
(2015)

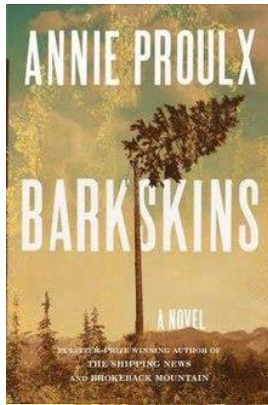
This fantasy novel inspired by Polish folklore features magic, romance, and a sentient wood



Richard Powers

The Overstory
(2018)

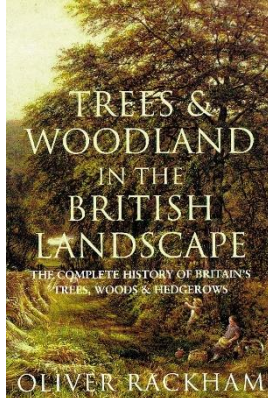
A sprawling novel in which the lives of nine different people become entangled in the fight to save a redwood forest



Annie Proulx

Barkskins (2016)

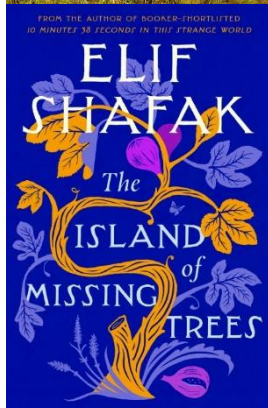
A novel following generations over three hundred years, from seventeenth century Frenchmen felling trees in New France to their modern descendants facing ecological crises



Oliver Rackham

Trees and Woodlands in the British Landscape (2001)

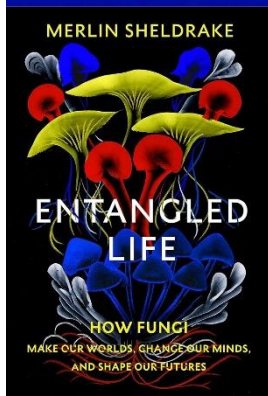
The eminent woodland historian tells the story of the role and history of trees and woodland in Britain



Elif Shafak

The Island of Missing Trees (2022)

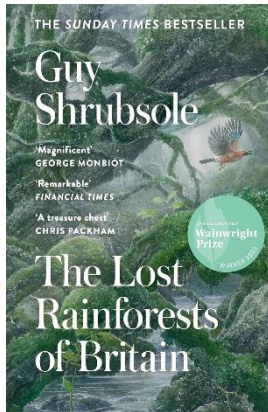
A love story of a Greek Cypriot and a Turkish Cypriot in a divided land, whose legacy survives in the form of a fig tree, connecting their daughter in present-day London to her heritage



Merlin Sheldrake

Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds, and Shape Our Futures (2020)

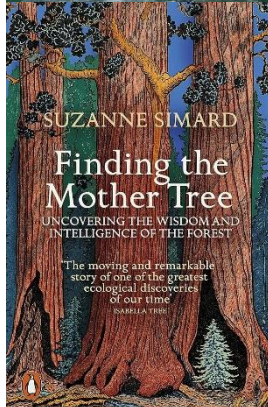
Biologist Merlin Sheldrake shows us the magical world of fungi and their extraordinary power in shaping life on our planet



Guy Shrubsole

The Lost Rainforests of Britain (2023)

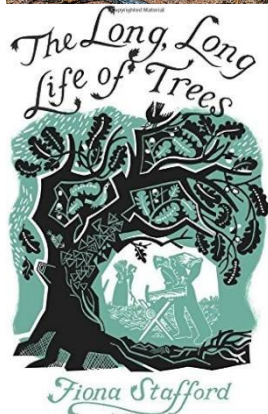
Rainforests in Britain? Shrubsole immerses us in these rare ecosystems and advocates for their protection and regeneration



Suzanne Simard

Finding the Mother Tree (2022)

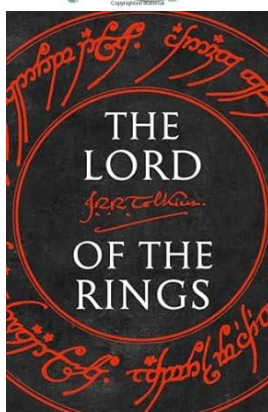
This pioneering scientist tells the story of how she came to discover how trees communicate



Fiona Stafford

The Long, Long Life of Trees (2017)

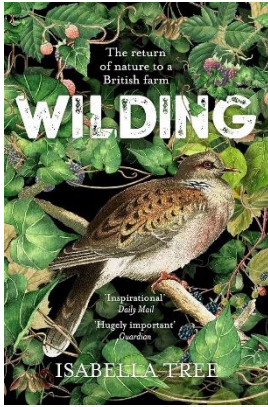
A celebration of seventeen common trees through their symbolic and ecological significance



J. R. R. Tolkien

The Lord of the Rings (1954-55)

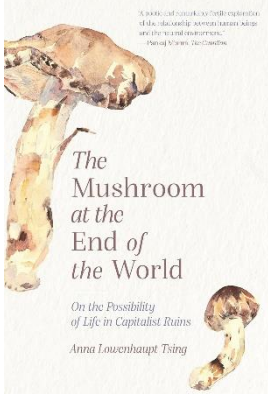
Tolkien's fantasy epic describes a richly forested landscape threatened with destruction



Isabella Tree

Wilding: How to Bring Wildlife Back to a British Farm (2019)

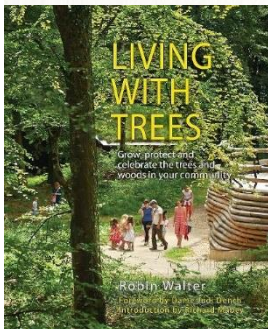
Tree tells the story of the Knepp Estate in West Sussex, which after a transformative process of rewilding has become a refuge for biodiversity



Anna Tsing

The Mushroom at the End of the World

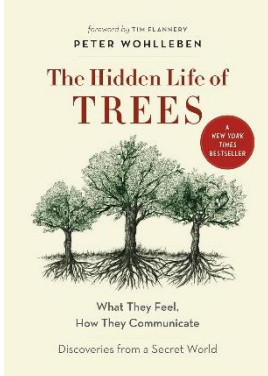
Challenging capitalist destruction and advocating cooperation and collaboration, Tsing shows us alternative ways of living with forest and fungal ecologies



Robin Walter

Living with Trees (2020)

A practical guide and celebration of living sustainably with trees and the many benefits trees offer to human society and culture



Peter Wohlleben

The Hidden Life of Trees (2016)

Forester Peter Wohlleben argues that forests are social networks, capable of communicating with each other in remarkable ways

