

★ **Apple and Magnolia****Laura Gehl****Patricia Metola, Illustrator**

Flyaway Books (Feb 8, 2022)

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Emotive, whimsical illustrations reminiscent of children's drawings enliven this story about the power of friendship. Britta is convinced that her two favorite trees, Apple and Magnolia, are best friends—even if no one but Nana believes her. When Magnolia's branches droop and her leaves brown, Britta is sure Apple is the key to saving her. She sets about finding ways to connect them through the winter and discovers the truth of Nana's words: "unusual friendships can be the most powerful of all."

DANIELLE BALLANTYNE (January / February 2022)

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