

**Me + Tree****Alexandria Giardino****Anna Balbusso, Illustrator****Elena Balbusso, Illustrator**

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A young girl and an old tree come together to grieve for the past and turn toward the future in *Me + Tree*. Collage-like illustrations, swirled with textures resembling wood grain, depict a story of desperate refugees forced to abandon their homes for a tempest-tossed boat. Throughout her story, the girl emphasizes the wood that built her home and formed the boat that brought her to safety, giving the old stump a renewed sense of purpose and exemplifying the endurance of hope.

DANIELLE BALLANTYNE (March / April 2021)

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