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## René in the Woods

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Author: Elene Usdin (Script writer/drawings)

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A sublime, moving, fairytale-tinged approach to real tragedy: the Canadian government's kidnapping of 20,000 indigenous children from 1960 to 1990.

René doesn't fit in anywhere. Not with his mother, who's never around, not with the children at school, not in his impersonal Canadian city. An oversensitive wild child, he has fainting spells where he finds himself in phantasmagorical worlds full of creatures both terrifying and kind. During one of these, he sets out in search of his rabbit, meeting a cannibalistic witch in pain, a light-devouring ogre, creatures without memory, and a simple-hearted giant. These encounters change him. He becomes Renée—flower, cat, tree... And revisits the founding myths of the First Nations, Canada's peoples.

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