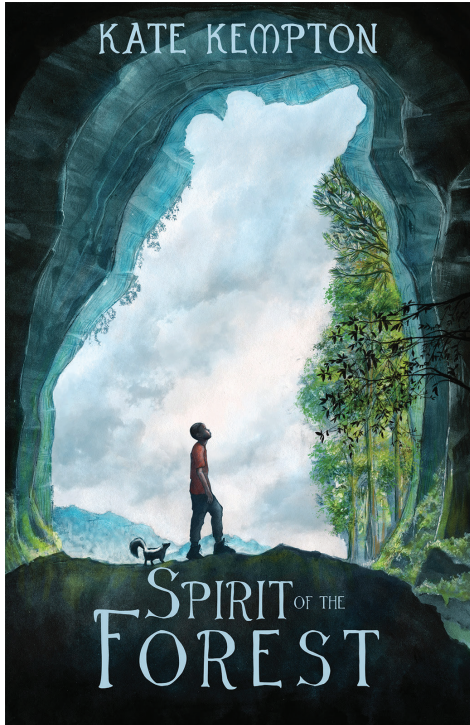


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SPIRIT OF THE FOREST

KATE KEMPTON

12-YEAR-OLD COBY IS NAVIGATING A COMPLICATED WORLD.

It's summer in 1980s Texas, and Coby heads to work with his dad, B.B., a logger. At the logging site, Coby is thrust headlong into a fight for the forest and its spirit, for his family, and for his own dignity. Coby finds his courage tested beyond his wildest expectations, in an adventure through the heart of the dark and ancient woods, through a hurricane, and through his emergence as a young Black man in a color-charged world. Coby finds his strength, and his voice, with the help of the haunting bear-man, a sweet little skunk named Orphus, and the magic of an open heart.

Spirit of the Forest is an allegorical tale that weaves belief and bravery into a cry for help for our beloved planet.

About the Author



Kate Kempton is a social justice and indigenous rights lawyer in British Columbia Canada. She is a lifelong seeker, always interested in finding ways to contribute to the earth and all living creatures.

Kate met former pro-football player-turned-pastor, Bruce “the Bearman” Smith in the 1990s. He shared accounts of his childhood—stories about growing up in the 1950s and 60s in Texas, a Black kid who cared deeply for the natural world. Bruce asked Kate to write his story to help build a kinder world for his own son, and for generations to come. *Spirit of the Forest* is the collaborative result of Kate’s hand and Bruce’s heart.

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