

[Citation + Full Text](#)[Print](#)**Into the Wild.****Durst, Sarah Beth (author).**

June 2007. 288p. Penguin/Razorbill, hardcover, \$15.99 (9781595141569). Grades 6-9.

[REVIEW](#). First published June 1, 2007 (*Booklist*).

Long ago, fairy-tale characters escaped their stories and entered the real world. Twelve-year-old Julie, Rapunzel's daughter, lives—literally—with the consequences: the enchanted forest they fled, known as the Wild, is currently stored under Julie's bed. It's Rapunzel's job to keep the sentient, hungry forest weak enough to control. Then the Wild is wished free. It subsumes Julie's town, trapping original characters in their old roles and imprisoning new people in the roles best suited for them. To free the others, Julie will have to survive wicked witches, poisoned apples, and marriageable princes to reach the heart of the Wild. The story is peppered with sly allusions, and Julie is an appealingly reluctant heroine, one whose goodness and bravery come with plenty of wry, contemporary sarcasm. Although the logic of the Wild doesn't bear close scrutiny, the concept behind the story is sufficiently clever that many readers will forgive its inconsistencies. Those who enjoy this spin of the fractured-fairy-tale wheel may wish to turn next to Lisa Papdemetriou's similarly playful *The Dragon, the Witch, and Two Girls from Jersey* (2006).

— *Krista Hutley*
