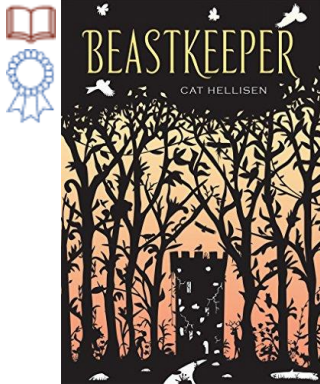


# Booklist Review

Books For Youth - Fiction - Fantasy



## **Beastkeeper.**

**Hellisen, Cat (author).**

Feb. 2015. 208p. Holt, hardcover, \$16.99 ([9780805099805](#)). Grades 6-9. [REVIEW](#). First published November 15, 2014 (*Booklist*).

Because her mother craved the warmth of the sun, Sarah and her parents frequently packed up and moved.

Lonely and friendless, Sarah always desired some magic in her life. On the day her mother leaves, never to return, odd things begin to happen. Her father's hair grows dark and thick as he becomes beastlike, and Sarah meets an improbable boy named Alan, who disappears as quickly as he appears in the Not-a-Forest near her home. Before Sarah's father transforms completely, he takes her to live with her grandparents—who are not dead, as it turns out. Nanna lives in a cold, dark castle with a white raven that spies on Sarah, while Grandfather is kept in a cage and fed meat scraps. From Alan, Sarah learns about the family curse, and so she wanders deep into the forest, toward the Within, so that she might stop the curse before it destroys her. Despite a slow start, this haunting tale successfully addresses the toll that long-term jealousy and revenge can have on families—and how love can heal even the deepest rifts. — *Jeanne Fredriksen*



## **Awards and Honors**

- *Best Fiction for Young Adults: 2016*

## **Booklist Editors Recommend**

Titles similar to *Beastkeeper*

- *The Bronze Key*
- *The Witch's Boy*
- *The Circle Opens*