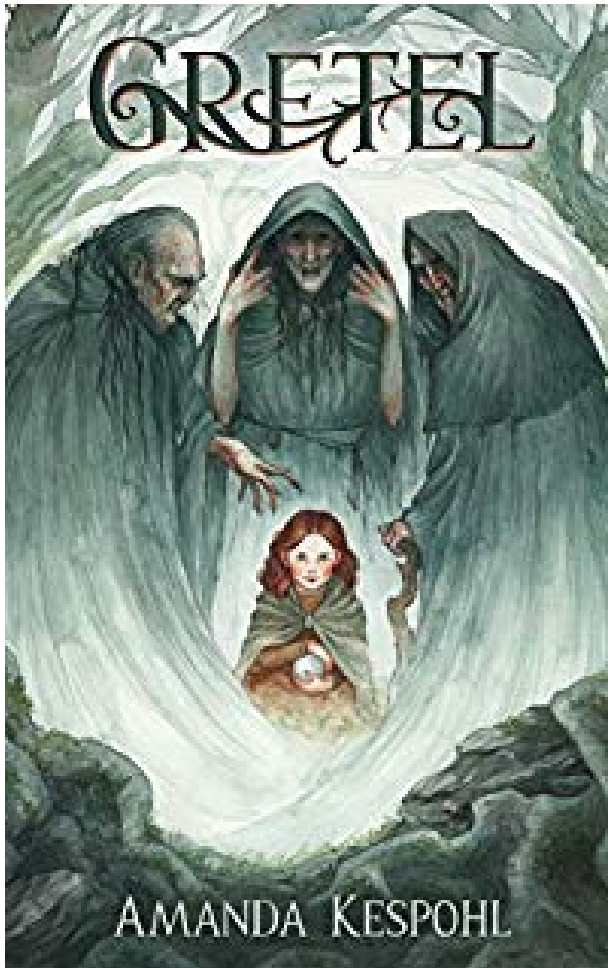


Gretel



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Though the forest around it teems with beasts and bandits, trouble never rears its ugly head among the thatch-roofed cottages and tidy streets of Ameles. But the village demands a steep price for its peace—every five years, two children must be sacrificed to the witches who keep it safe. To prevent rescue attempts, the children's parents are enchanted into forgetting their offspring. Mel came to Ameles because it was one of the few safe places left in the world to raise her daughter, Gretel. However, as a former pirate, she had no intention of playing by the rules if they chose her daughter as a sacrifice. Secretly, she had Gretel's name inked into her skin. If Gretel disappeared, Mel would know, and she would follow. However, eight years after her move to Ameles, Mel wakes up with a burn scar between her shoulders and an empty house. The only clue as to what happened to her is a wisp of ink at the edge of her burn. With the help of Alain—current pirate, former lover, and occasional tattoo artist—Mel sets off to find out what's missing in her life. And while Mel is working on remembering, Gretel will use all her cleverness to keep herself and her fellow sacrifice, Hansel, out of the witches' oven. A reimagining of "Hansel and Gretel," this fantasy adventure novelette remixes elements from the fairy tale with Greek mythology and pirates.