It’s 2038 and they come for the trees. As the rest of humanity struggles through the Great Withering, scientist Jake Greenwood is working as an overqualified tour guide on Greenwood Island, a remote oasis of thousand-year-old trees. She thought the island’s connection to her name was just a coincidence, until someone from her past reappears with a book that might give her the family history she has long craved. Like the rings in a tree trunk, we move back through time to the years before the First World War, meeting the men and women who came before Jake—an injured carpenter, an eco-warrior, a blind tycoon with a secret, a Depression-era drifter, and the fates of two boys that will set in motion events that will reverberate over generations.

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2020 Nominee