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WILLA OF THE WOOD coming in July from Robert Beatty *New book series set in the Great Smoky Mountains is follow-up to #1 New York Times best selling **Serafina Series***

ASHEVILLE, N.C. – WILLA OF THE WOOD, the new book from Disney-Hyperion author Robert Beatty, is coming July 10.

Set in the Great Smoky Mountains in 1900, **WILLA OF THE WOOD** is the story of an orphaned 12-year-old forest girl who spends her nights scavenging from the woods and homes of the “day-folk” to support her clan. Through a series of terrifying encounters and an unexpected kindness, Willa begins to realize that the “day-folk,” and her own people as well, are not what she’s always been told, setting in motion a quest for a new home and a new sense of belonging.

WILLA OF THE WOOD is the first title in the **WILLA SERIES** by Beatty, and the follow-up to his wildly popular **SERAFINA BOOK SERIES**. The two series take place in the same world and time.

“I couldn’t be more excited to introduce Willa, an enigmatic girl with special powers, who is as brave and determined as she is curious and compassionate,” said Beatty. “Willa is a brand new story with new characters, but Serafina fans will find themselves reunited with some old friends.”

Like the **SERAFINA SERIES**, which takes place at Biltmore Estate, **WILLA OF THE WOOD** is set in a real place within the vibrant history of the Great Smoky Mountains of western North Carolina and east Tennessee during the arrival of the railroad and timber industry.

“The Great Smoky Mountains are a beautiful part of the place I call home,” Beatty said. “I’ve enjoyed exploring their rich history and culture, along with their magical forests, coves, and streams. I’m thrilled to be sharing my passion for the region and its people through the Willa story.”

WILLA OF THE WOOD is available for pre-order now at bookstores nationwide or on Amazon at <http://amzn.to/2Fb5eWq>.

Beatty’s #1 New York Times Best Selling **SERAFINA BOOK SERIES** includes **SERAFINA AND THE BLACK CLOAK**, **SERAFINA AND THE TWISTED STAFF**, and **SERAFINA AND THE SPLINTERED HEART**. **BLACK CLOAK** was awarded the prestigious 2016 Pat Conroy Southern Book Prize, and **TWISTED STAFF** was a finalist for the 2017 Southern Book Prize. A fourth **SERAFINA** book is due out in 2019.

Visit robert-beatty.com for more information about Beatty and his books.

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