

meet the cast of **THE WITCH'S BOY**

KELLY BARNHILL

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NED

The wrong boy. He knows it. Everyone knows it. After a tragic accident that resulted in the death of his twin brother (and best friend in all the world), Ned has always seen himself as weak, broken, and useless. A waste of space. However, when his family and village are threatened, it is Ned who bravely puts himself at risk and journeys into a dangerous, cursed forest in order to protect the people he loves. Even the wrong boy can save the day.

ÁINE

As the only daughter of the feared Bandit King, Áine learned years ago that it didn't do her any good to question her situation. She lives in a tiny cottage in the middle of a mountainous forest and dreams of her old life, when she and her mother used to set their boats into the sea and gather fish in their handmade nets. Her father is being poisoned by magic and is on a path toward certain doom. Can she save him from himself?

TAM

No longer alive, poor fellow, but his soul was stitched to his brother's, which prevented it from doing what souls are supposed to do, which is to say, move on. He is fond of schemes and tricks and mad adventures. He is also terribly fond of his twin brother, Ned. While his construction abilities are somewhat suspect, he is very good at cracking jokes. And he is quite good at scaring the pants off spoiled-rotten boy kings.

SISTER WITCH

A woman of power—one who is listened to, always. For generations, her family has protected and managed a small store of magic, the last in the world. It is her job to keep the magic contained, safe, and good. And she does this—at a terrible cost. She is not permitted to use her magic for personal gain—to do so could invite disaster. And indeed, the one time that she bends the rules, the unexpected consequences cannot easily be undone.

THE BANDIT KING

Once upon a time, when he was a young bandit, he fell in love with the black-eyed daughter of an innkeeper when he was in the middle of stealing their gold. True love made him give up his wicked ways; he gave his heart and built a family and left the gold behind. Alas, his transformation didn't last. When his beloved wife fell ill and died, the grief-stricken man became a bandit once again—one so feared and powerful that he was called king of all the bandits. And his desire for money and power consumed him. The only thing that kept him tethered to his old life was his love for his daughter, Áine—when he remembered her. But slowly, Áine was starting to fade from his mind and his thoughts and his heart. And he was becoming something else.