



**MidnightSun Publishing**

## WHEN DARK ROOTS HUNT

by Zena Shapter

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Don't go out onto the lake. Wyann trees search the shallows to spear passing prey with their roots. Giant water-ants hunt anything that moves on the water-skin. Sala's village survives hidden behind a wall of poisonous ivy, because everyone agrees: don't go out onto the lake.

But then a strange comet crosses the night sky, throwing Sala and her pet pointer into a race through wyann-infested swampland that has her risking it all, unearthing long-hidden truths and stirring rivalries into a terrifying conflict set to change the world of Palude forever. Sala must do whatever it takes to face the truth of who she is: to save her village, to save her family, to save herself.

If only they had listened.

'A rich and thrilling read. Shapter has created an intriguing new world filled with luminous beauty, exotic dangers, and unsettlingly familiar aging tech, where the heroine must navigate strange cultural and political tensions and wrestle with the consequences of her own tangled ambitions.'

**Leife Shallcross**, *The Beast's Heart*

'Shapter has created an immersive, fantastical world with tension poised to snap at any moment. I couldn't put it down.'

**USA Today bestselling author Dionne Lister**, *The Circle of Talia*



'A great read - fresh, action-packed and utterly compelling. I loved it.' **Ian Irvine**, internationally bestselling author of *The Gates of Good and Evil* series

**Zena Shapter** is a multi-award-winning author of science fiction, fantasy, speculative and contemporary fiction, conjuring journeys into the beyond and unusual. Author of *When Dark Roots Hunt*, *Towards White*, and co-author of *Into Tordon*, among others, she's a 'writer with a need for adventure' (*Midnight Echo* magazine), 'a specialist in the weird, wacky, wonderful' (Writing NSW), creating 'the kind of excitement and suspense and pure pleasure that made me want to become a writer' (Lillian Csernica, *Tangent Online*), 'dark fantasy at its blood-soaked finest' (Australasian Horror Writers' Association), 'cold and brutal' (Tor.com) and 'beautifully crafted and well told stories that deserve to be read many times' (Glen Miles Short Story Prize). She loves movies, frogs, chocolate, potatoes, and living with her family on Sydney's beautiful Northern Beaches, where she's also an inclusive creativity advocate, writing mentor and editor. Find her online via @ZenaShapter and zenashapter.com



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