

Booklist

Advanced Review – Uncorrected Proof

Issue: August 1, 2024

The Fallen Fruit.

By Shawntelle Madison

Sept. 2024. 448p. Amistad, \$28 (9780063290594); e-book (9780063290617)

Family secrets abound as Cecily explores her unexpected inheritance. While she's been estranged from her father's family, the death of the aunt who raised her reveals that 65 acres in Virginia are waiting for her. But the mind-boggling discovery she makes is that her family is gifted—or cursed—with an inherited ability to fall through time. Enough family members have done so that there are rules written out and buried caches of supplies for those caught unprepared. Cecily must decide whether to break one of the cardinal rules and change a past event in order to save her family. Madison (*A Dream's Last Embers*, 2023) weaves in details from her own history and the real Free State to ground the more fabulous elements and give this world a fascinating depth. Cecily's journey will interest those who enjoyed the time traveling of Octavia Butler's masterpiece, *Kindred*. The family mystery, the generations spanned, and the misfortunes Cecily learns about will also appeal to fans of intricate, multigenerational tales like Gabriel García Márquez's classic *One Hundred Years of Solitude*.

— Sarah Rice