



The Courage Tree

By Diane Chamberlain



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It is Every Mother's Nightmare...Only Worse

Eight-year-old Sophie Donohue just wanted to be like every other little girl. Which is why her mother, Janine, reluctantly agreed to let her go on the weekend camping trip with her Brownie troop. But when Janine arrives to pick up Sophie after the trip, her daughter is not with the others. Somehow, along the forested route from West Virginia, Sophie has disappeared.

But Sophie is no ordinary eight-year-old. She suffers from a rare disease, and Janine has recently enrolled her in an experimental treatment as a last effort to save her life—despite the vehement objections of her ex-husband, Joe. Without her medication, Sophie cannot survive long. All her mother's instincts tell Janine that Sophie is alive, but time is running out.

Deep in the Virginia forest, another drama unfolds. Sophie finds refuge in a remote cabin inhabited by Zoe, a woman who wants nothing to do with the child. Zoe is struggling to save her own daughter from the law, and Sophie's presence jeopardizes any chance of that happening. She is as determined to save her daughter as Janine is to save Sophie...and only one of them can succeed.



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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

If you start your novel with a terminally ill child and a last-chance herbal remedy, chances are you've got a story. If you have the terminally ill child survive a car accident and become lost in the remote West Virginia woods you've got some stressful reading. If, for kicks, you put a psychopathic murderer in the woods, you've got Diane Chamberlain's nail-biting drama *The Courage Tree*. Sophie Donohue is the wise-beyond-her-years child. Janine is the mother wolf who courageously admits her child into the clinical trial of a new medicine against the advice of her ex-husband, Joe, and her cynical parents. Lucas Trowell is the *literally* tree-hugging love interest who supports Janine. Chamberlain knows how to place her characters in internal and external conflicts, and there are rich subplots for each character, though the abundance and timing of them can detract from the central drama. Even with its faults, *The Courage Tree* will lure you in and keep you reading late into the night.--Nancy R.E. O'Brien

From Publishers Weekly

A race against time to find a sick child lost in the West Virginia wilderness keeps pages turning in this suspenseful family drama by former psychotherapist Chamberlain (Breaking the Silence). Janine Donohue lives with her eight-year-old daughter, Sophie, on the Ayr Creek estate in Vienna, W.Va., a horticultural reserve operated by the descendants of the original owner. Janine's parents live in the main house, while Janine, a former Army Reserve helicopter pilot, and Sophie, who suffers from renal failure, live in the guesthouse. Despite resistance from her parents and ex-husband, Joe, Sophie is being treated with a new alternative herbal therapy, Herbalina, at the suggestion of estate horticulturist Lucas Trowell. The promising results have allowed Sophie to accompany her Brownie troop on a weekend camping trip. Joe blames Janine for Sophie's illness, believing it is a result of Gulf War syndrome, and disapproves of Sophie's trip. Sophie, her friend Holly and troop leader Allison travel in a separate car on the return journey, then an accident kills Holly and Allison. When the three don't arrive back with the rest of the troop, the police begin to search the dense West Virginia woods. Dazed, scared and weak without her medicine, Sophie manages to make it to a dilapidated cabin, where aging film star Zoe is hiding out. Zoe is awaiting the arrival of her daughter Marti, on the lam after a jailbreak, and Zoe is prepared to do anything to ensure her daughter's safety after many years of neglect. Meanwhile, Janine's parents and Joe suspect Lucas of foul play. Despite some cramped characterizations and too many narrative trails converging at once, this page turner will please those who like their stories with as many twists and turns as a mountain road. Multicity author tour. (Feb.)

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From [Booklist](#)

Janine, a divorced mother of a critically ill child, finally puts her foot down in defiance of her dominating parents and ex-husband to obtain an alternative herbal treatment for her daughter. The experimental therapy works so well that she allows the fragile eight-year-old Sophie to attend Brownie camp; then, when the car Sophie was to return in fails to arrive, Janine is terrified. Unwilling to sit and wait, the formerly mild-mannered mother rents a helicopter and actually locates the crashed and burned car Sophie was traveling in, but neither Sophie nor her body is to be found. With the clock ticking, as Sophie can't survive long without dialysis, searchers soon give up, but Janine will not abandon hope. Aided by her lover, who has secrets that make her family suspect he is a pedophile, she relentlessly tries to rescue her determined little girl. Well-drawn characters and an unexpected and riveting plot make this a memorable thriller in the tradition of Joy Fielding and Mary Higgins Clark. *Diana Tixier Herald*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Daniel Hendrix:

Reading a book can be one of a lot of pastime that everyone in the world enjoys. Do you like reading book therefore. There are a lot of reasons why people enjoy it. First reading a e-book will give you a lot of new details. When you read a guide you will get new information due to the fact book is one of numerous ways to share the information or maybe their idea. Second, looking at a book will make you actually more imaginative. When you looking at a book especially hype book the author will bring someone to imagine the story how the character types do it anything. Third, you can share your knowledge to other folks. When you read this The Courage Tree, you may tells your family, friends in addition to soon about yours e-book. Your knowledge can inspire different ones, make them reading a publication.

Thomas Schulz:

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