# Guess the Genre

"It is well known from laboratory studies that a single mycorrhizal fungal isolate can colonize different plant species, form interplant linkages, and provide a conduit for interplant transfer of isotopic carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus, or water. There is increasing laboratory and field evidence that the magnitude and direction of transfer is influenced by physiological source–sink gradients between plants. There is also evidence that mycorrhizal fungi play a role in regulating transfer through their own source–sink patterns, frequency of links, and mycorrhizal dependency. Although it is plausible that connections are extensive in nature, field studies have been hampered by our inability to observe them in situ and by belowground complexity. In future, isotopic tracers, morphological observations, microsatellite techniques, and fluorescent dyes will be useful in the study of networks in nature. Mycorrhizal networks have the potential to influence patterns of seedling establishment, interplant competition, plant diversity, and plant community dynamics, but studies in this area are just beginning" (Simard, 2014).

What genre is this? How do you know? What are the clues?

Who is the audience? How do you know?

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"The trees soon revealed startling secrets. I discovered that they are in a web of interdependence, linked by a system of underground channels, where they perceive and connect and relate with an ancient intricacy and wisdom that can no longer be denied. I conducted hundreds of experiments, with one discovery leading to the next, and through this quest I uncovered the lessons of tree-to-tree communication, of the relationships that create a forest society. The evidence was at first highly controversial, but the science is now known to be rigorous, peer-reviewed, and widely published. It is no fairy tale, no flight of fancy, no magical unicorn, and no fiction in a Hollywood movie" (Simard, 2021).

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