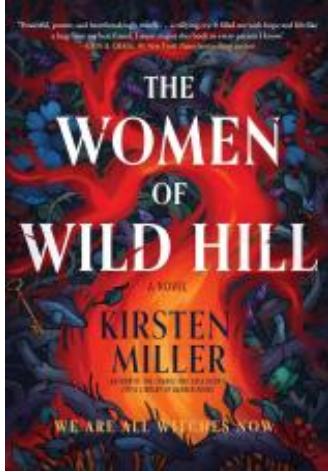


The Women of Wild Hill

by Kirsten Miller



About the Book

A witty, spectacular and timely tale of modern-day witches waging war on the patriarchy, from fan favorite Kirsten Miller, the author of *THE CHANGE* and *LULA DEAN'S LITTLE LIBRARY OF BANNED BOOKS*.

There are places on earth where nature's powers gather. Girls raised there are bequeathed strange gifts. A few have powers so dark that they fear to use them. Such a place is Wild Hill, on the tip of Long Island. For centuries, the ghost of a witch murdered by colonists claimed the beautiful and fertile Wild Hill—until a young Scottish woman with strange gifts arrived. Sadie Duncan was allowed to stay.

Five generations of Sadie's descendants called Wild Hill home, each generation more powerful than the last. Then, in the aftermath of a terrible tragedy, the last of the Duncans, once prophesized to be the most powerful of their kind, abandoned their ancestral home.

One of them, Brigid Laguerre, moved to California and turned her dark gift into fame and fortune. Her sister, Phoebe, settled on a ranch in Texas, where women visit in secret for her tonics and cures. Phoebe's daughter, Sybil, has become a famous chef. Seemingly powerless, Sibyl has never been told of the Duncan bloodline.

Now Brigid, Phoebe and Sibyl have been brought to Wild Hill to discover their family legacy. The Old One, furious at the path mankind has taken, has chosen three powerful witches to turn the tide. The Duncans will fulfill their destinies --- but only if they can set aside their grievances and come together as a family.

Discussion Guide

1. Is the magic of Wild Hill in the land, or in the women? How are the Duncans' lives changed when they move away? If they can practice their magic elsewhere, why does the Old One call them back to Wild Hill?
2. From Angus and Charles Campbell to Henry Jansson, Wild Hill often proves fatal to men. Which men seem to fare better, and why? Are there 'good men' in the world of Wild Hill?
3. Brigid and Phoebe's storyline takes place in the near future. How does their world differ from the one we live in? Do you think it's a realistic vision of what awaits us?
4. What did you make of Flora's love affair with Calum Geddes? Would their relationship --- and the Duncan women's fate --- have been different if he had never found out about the bodies in the basement? Would the world itself have been different if Calum and Flora had stayed together?
5. Bessie, the ghost of Wild Hill, tells Phoebe, 'This mansion was never meant for me.... It's for all the others, of course.' Who are 'all the others'? Why has it taken so many generations for them to arrive?
6. Of all the Duncan women's powers --- foreseeing the future, talking with the dead, making poisons, healing --- which would you most like to have for yourself?
7. Do the women of Wild Hill accept their fate or make their fate? Bessie tells Flora, 'I can show you a path that will change the world. Only it's not yours.... For this path to begin, yours must end.' Was Flora's decision really hers to make? Do her daughters have any more agency than she does? What would happen if they chose to disobey the Old One's orders to return to Wild Hill?
8. Why did the Old One give the Duncan women the ability to influence the weather, plants and animals? What does control over the natural world signify? What parallels are drawn between the subjugation of women and the destruction of our environment? Who should be held responsible?
9. The original witch of Wild Hill tells Sadie that the Old One will call on her descendants to 'begin the end of the rule of men.' What do you think that would look like in our world?
10. THE WOMEN OF WILD HILL has cameos by characters from Kirsten Miller's previous novel, THE CHANGE. Did you recognize them? If you've read THE CHANGE, what role do you think its characters have to play in the Duncan sisters' world?
11. Kirsten Miller was inspired by real-world figures when she created some of the characters in this novel. Do any of them seem familiar?
12. What do you think will become of Wild Hill and the Duncan women in the years after this novel ends? What kind of future do you see for them...and for the world?

Author Bio

Kirsten Miller is the author of THE CHANGE, a "GMA" Book Club pick; LULA DEAN'S LITTLE LIBRARY OF BANNED BOOKS; THE WOMEN OF WILD HILL; and the groundbreaking YA series starring Kiki Strike. Born and raised in a small town in North Carolina, she now lives in Brooklyn, New York.

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