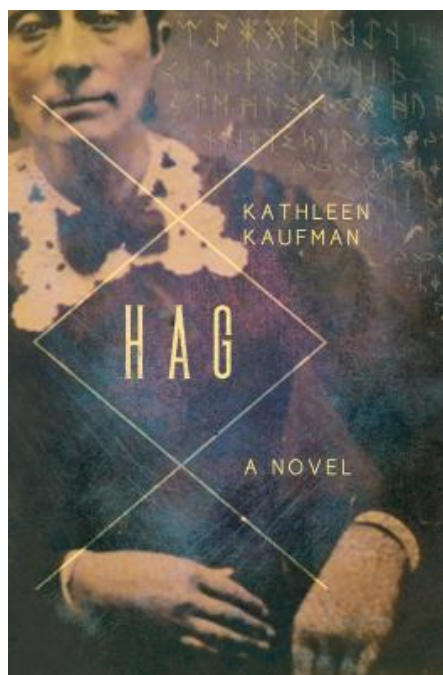




Hag

Kathleen Kaufman

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At this, the Cailleach would release a single drop of indigo dye onto the topmost layer. See, she would tell her daughter. See? It bleeds through the topmost path and onto the next. In this way, so many things from the next world touch ours, and our world touches the layer beneath.

High above the sea, hidden in the rocky Scottish cliffs, something stirs. An ancient matriarchial power has set the wheels in motion for a long line of descendants. But to what end?

Spanning centuries of human history, these daughters of the lowland hag, the Cailleach, must navigate a world filled with superstition, hatred, violence, pestilence, and death to find their purpose. With pasts half remembered and destinies denied, the daughters of Cailleach are women with uncanny, and often feared, abilities to heal, to see the future and to cause great destruction and pain when threatened. With each passing generation, the waves crash against the shore, and the Cailleach awaits a homecoming that will bring everything full circle.

Hag Details

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Author : Kathleen Kaufman

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From Reader Review Hag for online ebook

Sadie Hartmann Mother Horror says

Review sent to Cemetery Dance!

Joeanne says

The mystical reach of the Cailleach throbs as the heartbeat of the story. Stacks of cloth and drops of indigo, Glasgow, Colorado, and London, heath and hearth, children growing and dying, girls becoming mothers and grandmothers all in a family connected by maternal blood and names.

There is magic in the knowing, danger in the forgetting and power in the remembering of the distant past, the depths of the unconscious. The mark of the rune, the dreamy mist of half-light where prediction comes forth, in the links of lineage- I am she and she is we. we are one.

It is refreshing to see the male element bound to conception and not authority, as this is a story of the remnant of the Matriarchs.

A well crafted woman's tale. Some confusion as to the solstices in the plot, as long night and short night are constantly switched by the writer. I enjoyed the tone and texture of the book.

Annie says

The women in Alice Grace Kyles' family have always been considered odd. They have special talents: with healing, seeing the future, etc. The locals wherever they happen to live call them witches. We readers don't have to wait long for the answer for all this to be revealed in Kathleen Kaufman's *Hag*. All of the women, including Alice herself, are descended from the Cailleach, a powerful female creature sometimes called a hag...

Read the rest of my review at A Bookish Type. I received a free copy of this book from the publisher via Edelweiss, for review consideration.

Mary Marraccini says

I knew from the first few pages that this book would capture, and deserve, my uninterrupted attention. I took my time and absorbed every word. Hag is far more than fable or fantasy. Woven within are the lives of strong, capable women linked by DNA. Their abilities exceed any I am familiar with though we boast generations of Scottish grandmothers. Do such characters exist? I challenge a reader to make that determination. I turned the last page eager to know of future generations! Incredible read!!

Cheryl says

A swath of undeveloped land in Glasgow holds secrets, ancient, unnerving secrets that only the young can see as the old scoff mere folklore.

Alice Grace is six years old when a vocal force saves her from an eddy of sure demise. Shortly thereafter, she and her mum leave Scotland for Colorado and, presumably, a new life. One that Alice has seen, in varied versions, of her future. It's an escape, but it doesn't last.

Alice can also see other people's futures, sometimes vivid realism, other times gossamer scenarios. But there's more and she begins to remember.

Told in alternating time lines: the days of the Cailleach, the time of Alice, tho hers fast forwards a lot, and the days of all those between. Generations of daughters, born with a gift they would have to forget, tattooed with the sign to remind, filled the Scottish hills and the herbs that grow upon them.

A sweeping telling of many birthrights, repeating in varied, yet precut, scenarios. Culminating, at last, before setting off again.

Amanda says

I loved this story! It was beautiful and magical. It reminded me a bit of Sarah Addison Allen though a bit darker. I love this line of the book because I think it sums it up very well, "it's all about cycles, and as mad as it sounds, I feel like I'm part of a grand cycle, all the women who came before me, and when I have a daughter of my own, it will all come round to where it began." That is what this book is about, the power of family and how we are all connected through time. Amazing book!

I received an arc from the publisher.

Charlene says

There are so many great books this year and this one, coming in October of 2018, is no exception. I was hooked early in the story and I was reluctant but to put it down. Had I not been exhausted I would have been up all night reading it.

Hag tells the story of a long line of gifted women who are frequently whispered about because of their uniqueness. I loved reading about the skills that each descendant was taught and the suspense built through the book makes it impossible to put down. It's a wonderfully composed tale which bounces back and forth between the generations but it's easy to follow. I noticed at the end of the book there was a family tree of sorts included.

It's a must-read, easily one of my favourite books of 2018 so far. It's mesmerizing, spellbinding, addictive, and ultimately beautiful even in its darker moments. An instant five-star-favourite for me and it made my Best of the Year 2018 shortlist.

Kimberly Mussell says

free copy for an honest review

Alice is a young girl just venturing to Colorado, United States.

A girl with a vision? A girl with a curse? Just a few pages in and I am intrigued and my interest is piqued!

The intertwined story of Cailleach and her many ancestors is rather interesting and puts a beat into the story that allows you to stop and think. The backward story of all the great grandchildren from then to present is rather brilliant!

The mark of Ingwaz holds the power and connects the lineage throughout the family tree.

Thanks to the author and Turner Publishing for allowing me to read this piece of art!

whatsjennareading says

Confession. I did not even finish reading the synopsis for this one before pressing the request button in Edelweiss. The blurb above checks a lot of boxes for me—the occult, Scotland, multigenerational, women—I was in before I even turned the first page, and was left feeling anything disappointed at the last. Hag is an engrossing and atmospheric tale of magic and family connection. Kaufman moves effortlessly between past, present, and future to weave the story of the Cailleach and her powerful daughters. The opening chapter pulled me in, and the rest of the story had me reading in every spare moment.

In Hag, Kaufman uses alternating chapters to switch between the story of the Cailleach and each generation of her daughters leading up to Alice Grace Kyles. The other chapters are dedicated to Alice and her family, and the two story lines move forward together before finally meeting in time for an explosive ending. The chapters written from the perspective of the Cailleach were my favorite—magical and enchanting—they reminded me why I love magical realism so much. It was a complete coincidence that I read this book while the Kavanaugh trial was going on, but so many of the scenes ended up being such a balm. The daughters of the Cailleach are incredibly powerful and are able to defend themselves against the violence put against them. Reading Hag during this political climate in our country felt like discovering a girl power anthem in book form.

It's been a couple of weeks since I finished, and Hag has stayed with me. I find myself thinking about it often, lost in the otherworldly landscape Kaufman created. This is an absolutely perfect book to read in the fall, especially during the month of October. Put on your comfiest sweats, get a soft blanket and some warm tea, settle in, and prepare to be spellbound by this beautiful and powerful story.

The biggest thanks goes to Edelweiss and Turner Publishing for the advanced review copy in exchange for my honest review.

Sheryl says

First let me say that I am one of those people the judges a book by the cover--if it doesn't grab me I keep on moving. Well, this cover did NOT grab me and would have completely overlooked this gem if it weren't for my Bestfriend recommending it for our Bestie Book Club. She did good!

I loved this book for a couple reasons--it takes place in Scotland; it has magic and witches; and its full of history/folklore that I just ate up!

It was a little hard to keep things straight because there were no years mentioned when we went back in time/history, the only reference of time being longer than man. But the richness of the snippets/flashbacks made up for it. The central story focuses on Alice. We meet her at age six playing in the puddles outside her Glasgow home, and the supernatural things start happening right off the bat.

As Alice grows we learn more and more about the long line of hags she comes from, and a little bit more about everything coming full circle. Then Alice's daughter Coira becomes the central character--she's the strongest of the line.

****SPOILER ALERT****

Coira ultimately brings all the women's spirits from way back when back so she can lead them essentially back home (is what it felt like). Alice, her daughter and her Mum die in the end--having come full circle. Wasn't exactly expecting that!

Edward Lorn says

HAG is the best book of its kind that I've read. It is a far superior witch novel than, say, it's closest competition, HEX, by Thomas Olde Heuvelt, which traveled into the goofy at times. Kaufman's book isn't plagued by the goofiness associated with witchcraft lore, and even manages to discuss other topics like the existence of mermaids without coming off as hokey.

I never wanted to put the book down, and only did when I had no other choice, as during times when hunger or familial obligations like cooking dinner got in the way. It's one of those books that could likely cause a case of child neglect if the parent reading the book isn't careful.

Sadly, I do feel I must warn some of you because the book does not have a linear plot, nor does it really have a plot at all. It's more like John Irving in the sense that you're following someone through their life and learning about all the things that made them into who they are today. So if you prefer your stories more story-driven/plot-focused, probably skirt this one. But if you enjoyed books like THE GRIP OF IT, by Jac Jemc, this is the book for you.

Many thanks to the Ladies of Horror Fiction for putting this on my radar. They are doing important work broadening horizons and showcasing authors who might otherwise fly under our radar. To this day, they're the only ones I've seen talking about that book, and it truly deserves a bigger audience. So give them a follow on Twitter and/or Instagram, all links can be found on their website here: <https://ladiesofhorrorfiction.com/>

If you'd like to see my video review for this book, you can find that here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_a-z...

Ashley says

You guys! This book just came out yesterday!

As with everyone else in the Known Universe, I love fall. You know how this goes, and everyone has been writing about it in All The Social Media Places so I'll just take my comfy sweaters and pumpkin flavors and hot chocolate and move along. I really love October, actually, because I think that Halloween is awesome and I love all the stuff that goes with it. Being a book nerd, I LOVE indulging in some spooky literature during October. It seems like the perfect excuse to over-indulge in ghosts and witches and scary things. I read these things all year round, let's be real, but they seem especially delicious and pertinent during

October.

I'm excited to review this book for you because it's new and just came out and if you're into time jumps and witchy things and woman power, this is a book for you. It's perfect for your Halloween season reading!

I felt a particular connection to this book because I am of Scottish descent, and my Granny actually emigrated from Scotland, so the connection to it is close and very real to me. My Granny spoke with a proper British accent, not a Scottish one, as she was from an aristocratic family and attended boarding school. However, I have the family tartan, family crest, etc. I have always felt a strong connection to Scotland and my Granny, so this book resonated with me. I don't come from a family of witches (or maybe I do?!) but I love strong female characters and women with ancient powers and matriarchal lines.

And really, ancient powers and matriarchal lineage is the strength of this book. I loved how it was mostly about women, and these women were witches. They are powerful, they are from an ancient line of powers, and they are taking exactly NO CRAP from anyone, man or woman, who would stand in their way. I also loved the idea of an ancient matriarch who was lurking and orchestrating. It's awesome. There's also a matriarchal tattoo that was really cool.

And get this. The publisher told me that the picture on the cover is actually a picture of the author's great great grandmother Charlotte. Which is awesome. The picture is captivating and actually one of the things that drew me to the book in the first place. Charlotte is obviously a woman with depth. You can see it on the cover. Although she is not specifically the character in this book, you can tell that Kaufman has a lineage of women to draw from who inspired her.

I really enjoyed this book. I found it to be really interesting and spooky, with a fun story and an interesting vibe. You should definitely check it out this Halloween season!

Read this and other reviews here:

<http://readingforsanity.blogspot.com/...>

Reeca Elliott says

Alice can see things. She knows what is going to happen in someone's life. She does not realize she is a daughter of the Cailleach or the hag. No one has taught her or made her understand her destiny.

Alice struggles through most of this story. Deep down she knows she is different but she does not quite understand what or how. She sees the future when she looks closely at someone. This leads her to a path of destruction many times, but she manages to pull herself away. She is much stronger than she thinks.

The author's prose is wonderful. The story is extremely unique, however it is a little disjointed. Maybe if it was prefaced before each chapter which generation the chapter was about, it would have made it flow better. I did enjoy reading about the different generations with this strange "talent". It would just take me a few paragraphs to figure out what exactly was going on. I was reading and ARC. So maybe this was corrected in the final copy.

All in all, the author's writing is superb. I would love to read more books by her.

I received this novel from Edelweiss for a honest review.

Ctgt says

We were never entirely in this world; even now, we both have one foot on the other side of the mist.

Based on Scottish folklore, this is a wonderful story of a long line of women and their ties to one another through the ages.

I have seen this described as horror but I don't consider this horror in any way. Much more in the lines of historical fiction with a mythological bent. This matriarchal line has ebbed and flowed throughout history and is building toward some future event. The narrative builds slowly as the story jumps back and forth in time to introduce you to the women who continue the legacy of Cailleach.

No one could enter this space without her permission; no one could even see it, and if they did, they would quickly forget. She moved the cabin out of the reality of man and just off to the side.

10/10

Marzie says

4.5 Stars

It's seldom that I comment on a cover but in this case I have to say that the cover was a real disservice to the book. This is a beautiful novel with intertwined stories, principally of an ancient Scottish magical entity called Cailleach, that stems from the era of Scandinavian Scotland, and Alice Grace Kyles, one of Cailleach's descendants, along with a variety of other women descended from the Cailleach's line. Alice's story alternates chapters with Cailleach's stories and memories of her many daughters, slicing back and forth through time, eventually closing the circle. It's a beautiful novel and one that is well suited to those looking for a great Samhain read.

Those who know little about the Viking period in Scotland can read more about it here. The Ingwaz design on the cover of the book and used as chapter headers throughout the text is one of the original furthorc designs has an interesting history itself, not appearing part of the Kylver stone that lists the runes of the elder furthark. Named for Ing, a mythical male godlike figure who united the Vikings in peace and harmony, it symbolizes unity, completion. Though it is associated with maleness, I loved that it is claimed by the Cailleach as her symbol in this story.

ETA: found a link to more information on Cailleach... Beautiful images here.

I received a Digital Review Copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.
