

ECHO MOUNTAIN

A girl named Ellie has to move out from her home with her family to go live in the mountains in a small wood cabin and they have to live simple lives and living on the wilderness around them. One day there is an accident which puts her father into a coma meanwhile Ellie and the rest of her family have to live without his help. Ellie keeps trying different ways to wake him up whilst her mum tries to stop her but one day she finds out that her and the rest of the people living near them are actually not the only people living on the mountain but her mother doesn't like it when Ellie visits the "witch". But slowly she finds more and more about the mountain but will her father ever wake?

George

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I was intrigued from the start and how it introduced a theme of healing, it gave great anticipation into what would happen later in the book. I liked the idea that there is more to a person than you may have first thought for example Cate is thought of as a witch, but she is much more than a scary sorcerer. It was nice how I could follow the emotional story of all the characters through the story and get an understanding of what it was like living on Echo Mountain through the hard times and the good. The book was fast paced but still felt like the story was easy to follow. I liked the theme of belonging and finding yourself and it was enjoyable as you followed the characters through this. I find it interesting how many of the characters preferred their lives before Echo Mountain but their experience on the mountain changed them in many good ways. I liked how Captan was portrayed in a way that made him seem quite human like and even though he was a dog he had his own emotional story too. It had themes of struggle both physically and mentally, but it also showed that there is an end to the hard times. I found the way it was written easy to follow and was not difficult to understand. I thought that the ending tied up the story well and I like the clear messages that the story gave through resilience, curiosity and courage. It may have been nice to have some questions unanswered at the end so that it gave the reader something to think about and then have a lasting impact on them after they have read the book. I had never really known about the depression in America and I thought that the book gave an amazing understanding of the challenges that faced a family at the time. The themes are kept throughout the story and they all work well together. I think the themes are explored in lots of detail and this really enhanced the read. Each time you picked up the book it made me feel very empowered. I thought that sometimes it was difficult to understand the length of time the book covered from the start to the end. I thought the book offered a good learning experience and some of the themes that were explored have made me think in different ways. I thought that the choice of narrator, Ellie, was very clever because it gave an interesting view into the life of a child in such a difficult time. I liked the interesting range of characters and the roles they played into the story from the young to the old. I think that Ellie teaches you to be curious and make the most of things. I thought the story felt true and very believable which made it very intriguing and it made you compare things between your own life and the lives of the characters in the story. I liked the way the dialogue was used and that all the characters had a voice in the story. I thought the book read very well and the writing style was easy to read. I thought that the style of writing made the book feel quite light and fast which made the book have new twists and themes in most of the chapters and so made it an interesting read. I think it would be interesting to re-read the book because you could focus less on the plot and more on the characters and what they are feeling and thinking. I think the book overall was a great experience and really enjoyed the whole book. I would definitely suggest it! Charlie

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I normally enjoy a range of books, but this one was not my cup of tea. My preferred genre is action/adventure and wartime novels, So, you would think that this book may be for me but unfortunately no. I found that this book was too "cheesy", the characters were not that interesting and the whole plot was quite dull. Maybe if there was a big quest to complete rather than a family matter, it would be more interesting. That being said, it is well written and I'm sure that some people with slightly different tastes would enjoy it. Callum

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I loved reading this book and seeing the main character's life and the world around her through her perspective and how she took it upon herself to cure her father and help those in need. I loved the setting and the beautiful description of homes and lives that have had to be built from a new beginning and that in the end, they all found home on the mountainside. Something that made me really captivated by Ellie's life was her resourcefulness and living simply in her community, sharing what they had and their knowledge of the new environment. I definitely recommend this book for all ages between 8 and 14 as it contains a story during the great depression but it is also a light and easy read. Georgia

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I love this book. The writing is so descriptive and I love the way it describes everything. The story is gripping and it just a really good read. Finlay

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is set in the 1920s, during the Great Depression in America. The first chapters show how the main character, Ellie, and her family are forced to leave their homes and live in a wood cabin built at the base of a mountain. Their life is peaceful, until Ellie's father falls into a coma after being hit on the head by a falling tree. Much of the plot revolves around Ellie learning how to cure both her father and a self-proclaimed "hag" who lives at the top of the mountain. Overall, I thought that the story was okay, but the pacing was slow and I couldn't really engage with the characters (who seemed quite 'flat'). Additionally, I thought the ending was very predictable. In my opinion, not a bad book, but not a great one and not one that I was sad to finish. Jacob

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I really enjoyed reading this book! The book tells us about 12 year old Ellie who lives on a mountain. It tells us how she moves to the mountains and what happened and changed after her fathers accident. This book had really good description to the scenery and all the characters. I felt like I was in the book following Ellie's journeys which just made me really enjoy this book. I would definitely rate this book 10/10 and 100% recommend this book for anyone at any age? Krishni

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is a book based on the Great Depression, which was a period with a lot of unemployment. The main character Ellie was forced to move to the mountains with her family because of the Great Depression. Ellie is such an inspirational character since she never gives up and believes in herself. One day, on the mountain, her father has an accident leaving him in a coma. The family then must struggle to survive. The book was very inspirational but had a few gruesome bits along with some thrills. I would rate this 11+ since the Great Depression is a complex period. I would recommend this to people who are interested in what happened in the Great Depression and how people struggled during it. Zoe

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is a first person point of view set in the Great Depression and takes you through how 12 year old Ellie and her family cope living on a mountain. They have quite a good life on the mountain until her father has an accident, putting him in a coma. You then find out how her family copes with the tragedy. Ellie is a very wild and adventurous girl but her mother and sister are not and they blame her for what happened to her father, though it wasn't her fault. She then meets an old hag and a boy named Larkin. Ellie finds out about being able to heal people while she helps Cate get better and she also finds out things about herself along the way. Ellie has to help Cate get better whilst trying to find a cure for her father and also trying to make sure her puppy quiet does not get taken away. This book is absolutely incredible and I couldn't put it down. I would really recommend this book. I love how the writer makes it seem that Ellie can feel what the animals, trees and other things can feel. I like how kind Ellie is, because she took the blame for something she didn't do to keep her siblings happy. Overall I would definitely rate this book 10/10 and it is a must read for anyone of any age! Rachel

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Set in the time of the Great Depression, in Maine, 1934, Ellie and her family are forced to move to the mountains, just like the rest of the town. Everything is going well, they have built a small cabin yet with ample space for them all and crops are growing, there are fish a plenty and the cows are full of creamy milk. Everything is perfect until The Accident- her Father's Accident. Everything changes, Ellie and her family have to learn how to do what Father did. The hunting, the snare setting- everything. Ellie is sure there is something to cure her father so she sets out to find one. She is waylaid, however, when Capricorn, their dog, gives birth to a litter and Ellie revives one, who she names Quiet. She is allowed to keep him and she is overjoyed. During looking for the cure, Ellie finds these beautifully carved animals on wood, carved for her, she just knows it's for her. One day, her mother sends her up the mountain to a family with fish but she comes across a stray dog who leads her to an injured outcast witch's cabin. Will they be able to cure Ellie's father? A truly beautiful book. I couldn't put it down. I would certainly recommend for anyone of any age. Lizzie

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I liked Ellie trying to find a cure for her father and finding the witch who was actually a healer. But she never knew. James