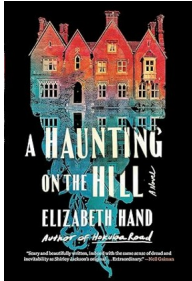




Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians



A Haunting on the Hill
By Elizabeth Hand
Discussed January 2024

The Haunting of Hill House – Incarnations of the Original Material

1959	The Haunting of Hill House, by Shirley Jackson
1963	The Haunting, directed by Robert Wise, starring Julie Harris (Nell) and Claire Bloom (Theo)
1992	Waxwork II: Lost in Time, a “dark fantasy comedy” directed by Anthony Hickox; one “episode” is clearly based on the Robert Wise film, with Marina Sirtis as “Gloria”
1999	The Haunting, directed by Jan de Bont with Liam Neeson, Owen Wilson and Catherine Zeta Jones
2018	The Haunting of Hill House, Netflix series, “a modern reimagining of Shirley Jackson’s classic gothic horror novel”

Dramatis Personae

- Holly Sherwin, aspiring playwright
- Nisa Macari, her girlfriend; musician
- Stevie Liddell, Holly’s friend; sound designer for the play
- Amanda Greer, aging actress; star for the play
- Ainsley Rowan, Hillsdale realtor (Hill House belonged to her late husband)
- Melissa Libby, once-a-week cleaner
- Tru Libby, her husband; cook
- Evadne Morris, the woman in the trailer

Discussion Questions

1. Did you finish the book? Did you enjoy it? Based on this book, are you likely to read anything else written by Elizabeth Hand?
2. What was your over-all impression of the story? Scary, frightening, exciting, interesting, so-so, boring? Is this an effective/enjoyable “haunted house” story?

3. Have you also read Jackson's *The Haunting of Hill House*? Have you seen any of the various film versions?
4. If you have also read Jackson's novel, how does Hand's novel compare?
5. What is Hill House? A building haunted by ghosts? A reflection or amplification of the psyches of its inhabitants or owners? An entity in and of itself?
6. What about those big black "hares"?
7. What's your impression of *The Witch of Edmonton* (the play within the novel)?
8. Hand is a musician/performer. Has this contributed to the story?
9. What's your impression of the wiccan angle in the novel (and in *Hillsdale*)?
10. How do you feel about Hand's depiction of Queer characters and relationships?
11. Did you find the ending satisfactory? How were the survivors changed by their experiences?