



The Witch of Willow Hall

Hester Fox

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The Witch of Willow Hall Hester Fox

Two centuries after the Salem witch trials, there's still one witch left in Massachusetts. But she doesn't even know it.

Take this as a warning: if you are not able or willing to control yourself, it will not only be you who suffers the consequences but those around you, as well.

New Oldbury, 1821

In the wake of a scandal, the Montrose family and their three daughters—Catherine, Lydia, and Emeline—flee Boston for their new country home, Willow Hall. The estate seems sleepy and idyllic. But a subtle menace creeps into the atmosphere, remnants of a dark history that call to Lydia, and to the youngest, Emeline.

All three daughters will be irrevocably changed by what follows, but none more than Lydia, who must draw on a power she never knew she possessed if she wants to protect those she loves. For Willow Hall's secrets will rise, in the end...

The Witch of Willow Hall Details

Date : Published October 2nd 2018 by Graydon House

ISBN : 9781525833014

Author : Hester Fox

Format : Paperback 368 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fantasy, Paranormal, Witches, Fiction

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From Reader Review The Witch of Willow Hall for online ebook

Jennifer ~ TarHeelReader says

Woo hoo, witchy woman...she got the moon in her eye! ?????

It is the 1800s in Boston, Massachusetts, some two hundred years after the Salem witch trials. One member of the Montrose family is a witch, but she has no knowledge of this.

There is a scandal that causes the Montrose family to flee from Boston to New Oldbury. Their new home is the gothic, eerie, but stately Willow Hall. It holds its own secrets within its walls. Will the Montroses be able to outrun their past, or is their family destined to be outcasts?

While there is a main character witch, The Witch of Willow Hall is not chock-filled with sorcery or witchcraft, so you should know that going in. What it is instead is an exceptionally atmospheric, well-told historical drama centered on family secrets, romance, betrayal, and tragedy.

I adored Lydia and found her story interesting and engaging. This is a slower-building story where not much happens until the end of the book, and that's ok because the story is about the people, the Gothic feel of ominous foreboding, and the richly cinematic atmosphere.

Thank you to Harlequin for the physical copy. All opinions are my own. I was fortunate to read this atmospheric book with five beautiful friends. ♥?

My reviews can also be found on my blog with pictures ??: www.jennifertarheelreader.com

Hester Fox says

I hope you enjoy reading this book as much as I enjoyed writing it <3

Edited to add:

You can find content warnings for THE WITCH OF WILLOW HALL here:
<http://www.hesterfox.com/content-warn...>

Holly B says

3.5 STARS

A gothic romance with a mysterious family tree.

The Montrose family is at the heart of this story and they have moved to the country with their three daughters to escape a scandalous family event. It is 1821 and their new estate is Willow Hall. There are stories about the home and whispers of ghosts and strange happenings. The younger sister, Emeline is quite taken with mermaid stories and now has added ghosts to her list.

The two older sisters, Lydia and Catherine are often at odds and seem to be competing with each at times. Catherine has a secret that could bring dishonor to the family and Lydia warns her to stay out of trouble, but no one can seem to control Catherine. When tragedy strikes, we learn more about the family history, hidden secrets are revealed and ghosts start appearing (*one image really spooked me*). There are some truly creepy happenings that made me uncomfortable and there was an eeriness that created a sense of dread, although it is not a scary book.

This was more of a gothic romance mystery than a witch story, although we do have some witchy influences. The pace is slow and steady as the story builds and the family secrets are revealed. There are some shocking twists and interesting dynamics that kept me intrigued until the end. I also enjoyed the author's wonderful descriptive writing.

Fans of gothic tales about dark family secrets with a hint of witchery should enjoy this one!

Thanks so much Harlequin for providing my copy for review. This book will be available on October 2, 2018. Review will post to my blog on 9/28/18.

Mary Beth *Traveling Sister* says

Two centuries after the Salem Witch Trials, there's still one witch left in Massachusetts. But she doesn't even know it.

It was the year of 1811 and it was the Bishop boy that started it all. He pelted stones at passing carriages. He lurked around every corner, responsible for every terrible thing in the world that Lydia's mind could not comprehend.

Her Pa brought home a black cat for her and her sister Catherine. It was an outdoor cat. The cat's name was Bartholomew and would squeak in greeting before she got to the straw filled crate. That day when she entered the barn, the cat did not greet her. She peeked into the crate the cat was dead and the straw had blood on it. Things got hazy for Lydia. She went storming into the street, in a rage. She had a purpose of what needed to be done. But she still did not know how she was going to do it.

The Bishop boy was found and didn't hide the fact that there was fur on his cuffs and his brown shoe was splattered with blood. Then he turned to the stash of pebbles he was collecting. There was a dozen people gathered around the cobblestones by the time Tommy Bishop was crying for his mother. That was when Lydia came back to herself and realized how many eyes were on her and what she had done. Her mother snatched Lydia up. More than anything else she was afraid of what was going to happen to her. She was afraid that she would be sent away. Her mother sat her on a bench. She braced herself for her sentencing. She was never punished. Her mother told her if anyone asked about it, they would say that it was only a scuffle. Her mother then told her that she must never show the world what it is inside of her. She told her not to tell anyone what happened. Her mother also made it clear that should it come out again that they could find themselves turned out of their home or worse. She never thought that they might be turned out for other reasons and and certainly not for the rumors that surround them now, which are that: rumors.

This is a spooky gothic novel. It is just perfect for the fall Halloween season. I loved the gothic atmosphere and even enjoyed the romance that fitted into the story. The book had everything in it: A witch, ghosts, spookiness, suspense and some dark secrets. There was some magic but there wasn't any witch spells, which made it realistic.

The estate they live in seems sleepy and idyllic. But a subtle menace creeps into the atmosphere, remnants of a dark history that call to Lydia and to the youngest, Emmeline.

I loved the characters and there were some unlikable characters too. I loved Lydia the best. John was a very likable character too. Cyrus was an unlikable character too. Another unlikable character was Catherine. She was just so selfish and just cared about herself. She was so jealous. I loved the ghosts too which I am not going to name them, because it could spoil the story.

This was a Traveling Sister read and I think we all enjoyed it and I enjoyed reading this and discussing it with them.I

I want to thank Edelweiss, Hester Fox and Grayson House/Harlequin for the copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Melisa says

A very enjoyable, creepy fall read!

I love this period - the propriety and all the rules and manners, the language, the fashion, the balls. All of it! Well, not all of it - although women's rights were just starting to take off, women were still treated as the lesser sex. But I did enjoy how we have some very strong, outspoken, intelligent leading ladies in this story.

We have a family who has moved to the country from Boston due to a scandal that has occurred, however we don't know what has happened and learn along the way.

I love an unlikable character and this book had several, including a well drawn villain and a wicked sister. I also enjoyed the sweet romance.

As someone who likes my books based in reality, this one had just the right amount of "spooky" in it for me - enough that it was believable and not super over the top.

A great atmospheric, gothic tale!

Thank you to Harlequin Books for my advance copy, this book will be available October 2nd! This was a group read with my @6bookbesties, Be sure to check out the reviews from Holly, Berit, Mackenzie, Jennifer and Kendall.

Brenda - Traveling Sister says

Norma, Lindsay and I read The Witch Of Willow Hall with six of our Traveling Sisters and we all agreed that this was the perfect book for this time of year.

The Witch of Willow Hall is just what we were craving. It has all the elements for a great spooky, atmospheric, entertaining and chilling read with just a little bit of creep to add a little shock to the story. There is just the right amount of tragedy and romance with a sprinkle of witchcraft and a dash of the supernatural, making this the perfect gothic historical fiction for us.

We loved the gothic feel here with Willow Hall and were intrigued by the mystery it holds from the past and now the mystery of a scandal that a family is fleeing from. The suspense to the story grabbed us right from the start and increased as tragedy hits and secrets are slowly revealed.

The sisters here in this story are compelling, complicated and one very messy one that we grew to love to hate. They are very different from each with some mystery to their characters making each very intriguing. We loved the dynamics between them.

We highly recommend this fun and entertaining gothic historical fiction to anyone who loves an easy paced story.

Thank you to NetGalley, HARLEQUIN – Graydon House Books and Hester Fox for providing me with an ARC in exchange for an honest review!!

Traveling Sister Read Review

<https://twosisterslostinacoulee.com/2...>

Diane S ? says

A Gothic tale, just perfect for October. A terrific blend of romance and ghostly happenings. Set in 1821 New England, two centuries after the infamous witch trials, we come to a creepy house, with a family whose lineage holds many secrets. So incredibly atmospheric, this was a sisters read and some of us were reminded of the atmosphere invoked in past Gothic reads, Rebecca, Jane Eyre and Wuthering Heights. The chilling kind of old fashioned read where one can use words like torrid and sordid. If you read this you will see how well they fit.

Characters to like, especially Lydia, one to find reprehensible, Catherine and a mysterious stranger, John. What they mean to each other, what the house wants from them will be revealed to the reader, exactly when it is time. Although chilling, suspenseful, it never gets uncomfortably dark, I thought it was just right. Not a big fan of romantic novels, but this story would not have worked without, which I don't often say. The writing, the descriptions, are very well done, and the atmosphere created just perfect. A wonderful rest for a dark, rainy evening.

ARC from Edelweiss.

Berit??? says

Beautiful, atmospheric, and haunting.....

this was an exquisitely told debut...Hester Fox has woven together this Gothic story of heartbreak and hope effortlessly.... as soon as I opened the cover of this book I found myself transported into the lives of the Montrose Family... finding myself in the middle of A scandal and the gloom and magic of Willow Hall....

This was not the story of a witch, but rather the story of Lydia Who just so happens to be a witch.... The witchcraft in this book was very under played and subtle, something I felt worked extremely well... Lydia was such a remarkable and charming character... Believe me I love hocus-pocus and spells as much as the next person, but I think that would have overshadowed the quiet beauty of Lydia... she just was one of those characters that reaches inside you and grabs a little piece of your heart.... you just feel everything she feels,

because she is so authentic and worthy.... any book that can evoke feelings in me about a character, is an absolute bonus in my book!

Lydia, along with her parents and two sisters Catherine and Emeline leave Boston in the wake of a scandal.... Willow Hall is where they find refuge... but is the house haunted? There is definitely an eerie air of mystery about the place....

This truly was a story of family and The complexities within.... Catherine, Lydia's older sister was a extremely colorful character.... she was definitely a worthy villain, the sister nobody wants to have... I was fortunate enough to have an author Q & A with Hester Fox... One of my questions was: who is your favorite character in this book? and her answer was Catherine, and I can see that she would be fun to write!

This truly was a magical book, not in the way of the supernatural, but in the way of storytelling.... there really is a little bit of everything in this book.... a little romance, A little witchcraft, a little taboo, a little haunting, A little tragedy, a little scandal.... A book with a beautiful ending that will leave you heartbroken and yet still hopeful!

Absolutely recommend to fans of Gothic historical fiction, who love character driven stories with a bit of a slow burn...

**** many thanks to Graydon House for my copy of this book ****

Christina - Traveling Sister says

4, this was the perfect Halloween read stars!!!

Full review featured on my blog [Recipe and a Read!](#)

Welcome fellow readers, to 1800's Boston, Massachusetts - two centuries after the Salem Witch Trials. Meet Lydia Montrose - she is the daughter of a wealthy businessman and a prim AF lady of the house. She does not shine quite as bright or as boldly as her elder sister Catherine, and she is not as imaginative and carefree as her younger sister Emeline. As a prominent family in the large city of Boston, we enter our story with the devastation of having to leave their established society due to the rumor mill churning on about Lydia's sister Catherine. They've left Boston in the wake of scandal for what was intended to be a summer home in the quiet countryside town of New Oldsberry to make Willow Hall their home.

Yet at the same time I want to untether my heart, toss it up into the sky and let it take wing. There's a wildness here that, if nothing else, holds promise, possibility.

While Catherine and her mother lament this move, Emeline is too young to care about much except for the prospect of mermaids in a nearby pond. Lydia, having recently had her engagement broken off wants nothing more than to care for her younger sister and avoid any more scandal befalling her family. However, Lydia has past secrets buried deep within her that she must keep bottled up but that Willow Hall seems to want to bring to the surface.

As the family settles into their new home strange happenings seem to follow in Lydia's wake. She hears the deep, painful wails of a woman in mourning, she sees pale-faced little boys roaming the grounds and their tinkling laughter fill the halls. As Lydia continues to ignore these signs, tragedy befalls the Montrose family and these dark secrets about her familial past come bubbling to the surface.

A witch has a third eye that she may use to see the world not as it is, but as it may be. See what you want to see, bend the vision to your will.

In addition to the historical fiction/fantasy that Fox has constructed here, there is a bit of romance thrown in. Based on the synopsis I didn't see this coming and while I haven't been reading a lot of romance recently I'm honestly a sucker for a good love story. I love getting swept up in the excitement that goes along with romance and I'm a bit of a cheese-ball so I loved seeing that pop up here. However, I think that even if you aren't a big romance fan that it wouldn't sway you from enjoying this story. The romance isn't overwhelming or insta-love the way many are these days. It feels genuine and my heart soared and sank as the romance ebbed and flowed and I was absolutely on the edge of my seat to see how it all played out.

"Lydia Montrose," he said, his sea-storm eyes dancing with light, "you are an exquisite little mystery and I have never wanted anything or anyone so badly in my life." I mean - COME ON. *swooning*

What left me wanting a bit more with this one, however, was that it got a bit bogged down on weaving what felt like less necessary plot points. I was left wanting a bit more witchy-ness and development into the history of the Montrose family. The first quarter of this moved fairly slowly for me and it did start to pick up but didn't really get moving to me personally until the second half. While I enjoyed the ending and my overall takeaway was pure enjoyment and entertainment I wish I knew more about what felt like the basis of this novel (witches and history) and little less about the MCs feelings about the scandals that will ultimately be forgotten.

Despite a few misgivings I absolutely adored this novel and I'd suggest it to anyone to pick up and read. It has a little bit of everything in it and I think anyone who loves a good October read would really enjoy this. It was expertly written, well paced and had developed and likable characters throughout.

I read this with the Traveling Sisters and we had a great time discussing all of our feelings. We've ultimately ended up all enjoying this read so far which doesn't happen too often! Thank you to Harlequin Books and Edelwiess for a copy of this ARC.

Mackenzie - Traveling Sister says

Haunting, romantic, and atmospheric—Hester Fox's *The Witch of Willow Hall* is a deeply engaging gothic historical fiction novel that explores the notion of how we choose to become who we are. Set in the small community of New Oldbury, Massachusetts in the 1800s, this book has a cast of characters that will make you forget where you are and feel like you are part of this town.

About the Book

The Salem witch trials are long past when the Montrose family arrives in New Oldsbury in 1821. Now the thing that terrifies communities is the hint of a scandal that could besmirch their good name. The Montrose's are the victims of such a scandal, cast out of Boston and into New Oldsbury, where they take up residence in their new country home, Willow Hall.

But gossip still clings to sisters Catherine, Lydia, and Emeline Montrose. Broken engagements, a shattered business relationship, and the shunning of their social circle have left the Montrose's with no choice but to start over. But all isn't lost. There are two eligible men in New Oldsbury that may just make the Montrose sisters forget about their troubles. And yet, the events of their past haunt the Montrose sisters...

As the series of events set off by that rumor in Boston begin to unfold, a darkness seems to creep in on the family. But there may still be one witch left in Massachusetts—Lydia Montrose. And Lydia will have to learn about her strength as a person, as well as her strength as a witch, if she hopes to save those she loves most.

Reflection

I must admit, I am completely captivated by this book. I found myself forgetting where I was, being transported to that weeping willow tree beside the pond outside of Willow Hall, with the forest looming around me. Though there is a haunting, gothic setting to this novel, it is more historical fiction with a dash of romance than ghost story. But don't think you'll escape this book without a few ghosts!

One of my favorite parts of this book are the characters. The sisters themselves are so different and well-developed. The shallow eldest sister Catherine, who may seem narcissistic but has much more depth of character than we first think. The youngest sister Emeline, who desires to be one of the older girls and feels left out by her age. And the middle sister Lydia, taught to believe herself to be plain and only desirable due to her father's money, only to learn that she has a strength of character and heart that goes beyond the rest of her sisters. Mr. Montrose, who is stoic to the point of seeming absent, until it matters most and we see the love of a father for his family. Mrs. Montrose, whose body has failed her in the wake of a broken spirit following the shame of her family.

And then we have Mr. Barrett and Mr. Pierce—New Oldbury's most eligible bachelors. Mr. Barrett is as quiet and proper as Mr. Pierce is charming and alluring. If this book delves into any topic, it may be that first impressions may be deceiving, and that outward appearances may only be skin deep. I loved the dynamics between Mr. Barrett, Mr. Pierce, and the sisters. It added a surprising and welcome story line of romance and courtship that was delightful to read!

This book is incredibly atmospheric. Hester Fox has a talent for descriptive writing that really made this book outstanding. The woods were filled with shadows and secrets, pressing in around Willow Hall and becoming a daunting force to enter and leave the manor. And then there was the willow tree by the pond, where so many important points in the story occur. The nature in this book was a character in itself, threatening to work with or against the characters, depending on how they engage with it.

And finally, we have the ending. I won't spoil anything about the book but I want to state how much I loved the way the ending of this book was written. The last chapter in particular was truly fantastic! It left the perfect tone to end the story on, and left me wanting more from Hester Fox.

I read this book with the 6 Book Besties and we all enjoyed different things about the book! We want to thank the amazing team at Harlequin books for partnering with us on this book. I hope you enjoy it!

Paromjit says

This is a perfect gothic, ghostly historical read for this time of the year, set in 1821 featuring elements of the supernatural. Hester Fox writes a family drama novel that just drips with chilling atmosphere. The well off Montrose family move to the small country town of New Oldbury after rumours and scandal drive them out of Boston. Willow Hall is their new home, infested with an unsettling and disturbing air, with a tragic history and ghosts that does not bode well for the family. The Montrose sisters are the beautiful and attention seeking Catherine, the plain Lydia endowed with powers that are beyond her comprehension, closest to her

younger sister, Emeline. The brother, Charles, is overseas, the father is involved in negotiating business deals and the mother, is weighed down with and struggling to handle the misfortunes that have hit the family. The family are to discover that rumours and scandal follow them to their new home, and in combination with the harrowing local history that haunts Willow Hall, this spells danger and tragedy for the Montrose family.

There are hints that the scandal revolves around Catherine, although she shows little sign of any regrets for her past actions. In the oppressive heat, tensions and rivalries abound between a desperate Catherine and Lydia as the pair dance around the only two eligible men in the local area, the quiet and thoughtful John Barrett and the more lightweight August Pierce. Lydia and Emeline both see what others cannot, with Emeline becoming obsessed with mermaids and the local pond. Lydia had been engaged in Boston to Cyrus, a business arrangement organised by her father, but it was broken, collateral damage to the family scandal. Lydia had not been greatly disturbed by the loss of Cyrus, but the past comes to haunt her present and threatens to destroy her future. Catherine, spiteful, resentful, and jealous, is a dangerous woman determined to wreck any hopes that Lydia may have at happiness.

Lydia is caught between family loyalties and secrets, facing blackmail, trying to understand her powers, afraid for her future and for other people as her romantic dreams threaten to disintegrate around her. Her only hope lies in her grasping and utilising the powers endowed on some of the women on her mother's side of the family. Hester Fox's debut historical novel is beautifully written, capturing the social attitudes of the time, particularly with reference to the position of women. She creates compelling characters in Lydia and particularly in her scheming and manipulative sister, Catherine. The key highlight for me was the gloomy and menacing atmosphere that pervades the entire novel. This is gripping historical fiction that cannot fail to enthrall the reader. Many thanks to HQ and HarperCollins for an ARC.

Debra says

3.5 stars

"Take this as a warning: if you are not able or willing to control yourself, it will not only be you who suffers the consequences, but those around you, as well."

A witch who doesn't know she is a witch! A family who flees Boston amidst scandal, moves to the town of New Oldbury in 1821. Looking to start over, will they find happiness, or will the past haunt them?

The Montrose Family was once a prominent family living in Boston until they were enveloped in a mysterious Scandal. Deciding to leave the city (and rumors) behind, Mr. Montrose, along with his wife and three daughters (Catherine, Lydia, and Emeline) moves into a summer home known as Willow Hall, in New Oldbury, MA. The reader knows that there is a son, but he does not make the move with the rest of the family. Why? Mr. Montrose will be a partner in the local Mill owned by a young man by the name of John Barrett.

Lydia meets John Barrett as he helps her find her younger sister's lost dog and she feels an instant attraction to him. Lydia is not the most confident person and is often put down and somewhat bullied by her older sister Catherine. While the older two sisters often clash, both adore their younger sister, Emeline. Young Emeline is full of adventure and yearns to find mermaids in the pond on the property and speaks of a boy at the pond who speaks to her.

Lydia has not felt comfortable in Willow Hall or the surrounding woods. She doesn't sleep well and begins to see and hear things that no one else in the family can. She knows that something isn't quite right at their home and has questions about one of her descendants. When tragedy strikes, Lydia begins to see ghosts and

learns more about her abilities.

I loved the Gothic feel of this book. Plus, the premise is interesting: a family driven from Boston due to a scandal, a young woman who is a witch but doesn't know it or how to control her powers, a residence with a past, ghosts, tragedy, and a young man with ties to the property.

If you come into this book thinking it is going to be all about witchcraft, you will be disappointed. Yes, there is a witch in this story, but you will not see lots of spells being cast or black magic. This book touches on several things - ghosts, witches, mystery, some romance, scandal, family secrets, a little magic, and tragedy. As the book moves along, the reader learns about the scandal which caused the family to leave Boston, and the history of Willow Hall.

This book does have a sense of dread and foreboding throughout. It's not a fast-moving book in the action sense, not a lot of action happens until closer to the end of the book. Having said that, the story is interesting and as the truth comes out, secrets are revealed, and several characters show their true colors. Lydia is a likable character and I was invested in what would happen to her, would she find answers, would she find happiness, would she find a way to harness the powers she doesn't quite understand, etc. This book is a slow burn where the story builds, along with the sense of foreboding, until the end when revelations take place. I would have liked a little more magic thrown in but overall an enjoyable read.

I received a copy of this book from Graydon House and Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review. All the thoughts and opinions in this review are my own.

Read all my reviews at www.openbookpost.com

Norma * Traveling Sister says

Spooky, suspenseful & a little bit witchy!

This book reminded me so much of the gothic romantic suspense novels that I used to love reading growing up. They were my absolute favourite stories and this tale just made me feel all nostalgic and reminded me of my fondness for these types of stories.

THE WITCH OF WILLOW HALL by HESTER FOX is a dark, haunting, romantic and an excellent debut novel that had me totally absorbed, entertained, and interested throughout this entire book.

I wouldn't necessarily say that this story was all that gripping or suspenseful for me though but it definitely had an ominous feel to it that I found quite appealing.

HESTER FOX delivers an atmospheric, intriguing and beautifully written gothic romantic tale of suspense and mystery here with wonderful character development, a captivating setting and an extremely spellbinding storyline. I really enjoyed the creepy dark vibe and the supernatural aspect to this novel even if it was a little subtle the real magic here was in Lydia's character.

It was one of those books that definitely cast its spell on me and I wanted to savour every single page.

Traveling Sisters Read

Norma's Stats:

Cover: Beautiful, alluring, eye-catching, intriguing and a fitting representation to storyline.

Title: Appealing, suspenseful, intriguing and a fitting representation to storyline. My interest is always piqued when the word witch is in a title and I'm usually all over it!

Writing/Prose: Well-written, engaging, captivating, and fluid.

Plot: Foreboding, menacing, engrossing, leisurely-paced, enjoyable and extremely entertaining. I adored this storyline!

Ending: A lovely ending that I was extremely satisfied with and left me feeling hopeful.

Overall: A fascinating read that had me totally engrossed within this gothic romance tale from start to finish! I absolutely loved the creepy and menacing feel that subtly emanated throughout this wonderful atmospheric tale! Would highly recommend!

Thank you so much to NetGalley, Harlequin and Hester Fox for the opportunity to read an advanced copy of this book in exchange for a review!

Review can also be found on our Two Sisters Lost in a Coulee Reading book blog:

<https://twosisterslostinacoulee.com/>

Kendall says

The Witch of Willow Hall is a rich gothic mystery at it's finest!!!

Our main character Lydia and her family move to New Oldbury after a scandal arises with her family. After the scandal, their family is ready to have a fresh beginning but somehow the past always sneaks up on you....coming back to haunt you.

Lydia starts to realize that she has some special powers. A witch! Loved this part of the novel!! I am huge fan of supernatural. Lydia's family dates back to the Salem Witches... dated well over 200 years go. Lydia starts to realize that she needs to control her powers because if she doesn't... word will be getting to the wrong person and may wreck even more havoc to her and her family.

What I loved about this?! I couldn't get enough of the gothic vibe and supernatural aspect. I was hoping to dive more into the Salem witch Trails giving us more history upon that but this wasn't the case which was a tad bit of a bummer for me.

The author does a fabulous job of focusing on family, love, and romance with a hint of supernatural. I was a tad nervous going into this one because historical fiction isn't usually my to go genre but I surprised myself and really enjoyed reading this alongside my besties.

Overall, this was a wonderful read and am so glad I was able to experience Hester Fox's piece of literature.

Huge thank you to Harlequin Graydon Publishing for the advanced arc in exchange for my honest thoughts.

3.5 stars rounded down on this one :)

Publication date: 10/2/18

Published to GR: 9/28/18

Mackey says

The Witch of Willow Hall is a perfectly written gothic tale of witches, dark secrets and history.

This is the debut novel written by Hester Fox and all I can say, "Wow!" Every first book should be this amazing! I was completely blown away by the history, the suspense and the storyline itself. It was, without a doubt, a great book!

Lydia Montrose is the middle child and a loving sister. Her family was run out of town after horrible rumors began to swirl around the family. It's 1821, and these types of "rumors" can be a death warrant even 200 years after the Salem Witch Trials. Her family moves to Old Newbury where her father sets up a mill. But things at the house itself are more than a strange. Lydia hears noises and sees ghostly type apparitions. What exactly is going on in their house and with Lydia's family? This slow simmering tale will answer those questions - and more.

One of the first "big girl" books I ever read was "The Witch of Blackbird Pond." It set the stage for my intense love affair with gothic tales, horror and spooky reads. Although, when I re-read Blackbird Pond I chuckle at how tame it is in comparison. **The Witch of Willow Hall** is not so tame - it has everything a reader could ask for in a great witch story. The characters are very well drawn; the love that Lydia and her sisters have for one another shines throughout the book. There is a touch of romance and a plot full of well placed twists to keep you on your proverbial toes. The Witch of Willow Hall is the perfect Halloween read - but be sure to leave your light on when you do!

Thank you #Netgalley, @HesterBFox, and #Harlequin-GraydonHouse for my copy of this perfect gothic tale!
