



# The Girl on the Mountain

by Carol Ervin

A woman abandoned. A child half-wild.  
A bond forged in fear and love.

## Book Club Discussion Kit



## Welcome to the Mountain Women Series

Thanks so much for choosing *The Girl on the Mountain* for your book club. I hope you enjoy the story and have a lively discussion. This booklet is made for you.

Inspiration for *The Girl on the Mountain* came from the people I met during my 50-some years in West Virginia and the experience of living in that beautiful mountainous area. In the mountains, the terrain is challenging, and communities are small and sometimes isolated. In places like this people must try harder to succeed, and most go out of their way to be helpful to each other. Even today, West Virginia is not the easiest place to live, but loyal West Virginians are certain it is the best. I'm sure previous generations had to be extremely hardy and resourceful. These are qualities I admire.

I started writing fiction when I retired. I wanted to write what was familiar and what I thought was important. What was familiar was the beautiful but difficult terrain of West Virginia and a culture based on hard work and cooperation. For the setting, I chose the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century lumbering industry, which today is still an important part of West Virginia's economy. In 1900 there were hundreds of small towns built around the lumbering and sawmills in the state, and perhaps thousands of miles of logging railroads. Today the timber is much diminished but carefully managed for the future.

Into this setting I put characters that came to feel like family to me and to thousands of readers of the Mountain Women Series. I hope you like them.

I love hearing from readers, so feel free to contact me at [www.carolervin.com](http://www.carolervin.com). I'll be delighted if your members post reviews on Amazon, Goodreads, Barnes & Noble, or other online sites. Reviews are very helpful to authors and they guide readers to books they'll love.

Have a great discussion!

*Carol Ervin*

<b>Main Characters in <i>The Girl on the Mountain</i></b>	<b>Their characteristics, strengths and weaknesses</b>	<b>Your thoughts and questions</b>
May Rose Long		
Wanda		
Jamie		
Russell		
Barlow Townsend		
Hester Townsend		
Dr. Hennig		
<b>Secondary Characters</b>		
Dessie		
Morris Herff		
Will, Charlie and Glory Herff		
Mrs. Donnelly		
Donnelly boys		
Evalena		
Suzie		
Clyde		

## Ideas for Discussion

Were any historical features of this story new to you?

Is May Rose weak and foolish to let her husband isolate her in the mountain cabin?

Why does she fear spending another winter in the cabin?

Which character do you like better, May Rose or Wanda? How are they good for each other?

What's Jamie's excuse for the fight between him and Donnelly?

How did May Rose get a bad reputation?

Why does May Rose want to take Wanda to North Dakota?

Two reasons why Wanda did not want to go

Do you think May Rose stood naked in the doorway as trains passed?

Why does Russell change his mind about May Rose?

Two reasons why May Rose has had no news from her family.

How are Morris Herff and his 3 children important to the story?

What role does Suzie's brothel play in this story?

What do you think of Barlow and Hester Townsend? Did either have redeeming qualities?

Did the abrupt ending bother you?

Who are the villains in the story?

Your questions:

# Further Reading

## **Books in the The Mountain Women Series**

*The Girl on the Mountain*

*Cold Comfort*

*Midwinter Sun*

*The Women's War*

*The Boardinghouse*

*Kith and Kin*

*Fools for Love*

*The Meaning of Us*

*Hearts and Souls*

*The Promise of Mondays*

*Pressing On*

*Down in the Valley*

*Rona's House*

*The Years We Missed*

## **A Novella, Prequel to the Mountain Women Series**

*For the Love of Jamie Long*

## **A Christmas Novella**

*Christmas with Charlie*

## **Other Novels**

*Miss Slappy Gets an Admirer*

*Ridgetop*

*Dell Zero*

*Be Cool, Jule (by Lorelai Grant)*

*Find these books in ebook, paperback and  
hardcover at Amazon.com, and  
paperbacks from other dealers.  
Also available in Kindle Unlimited.*

**For a comprehensive view of the logging industry in West Virginia, please see Roy B. Clarkson's *Tumult on the Mountains: Lumbering in West Virginia 1770-1920*. This book has been in publication since 1964, with many historical photos and lists of tools, jobs, sawmills, etc. It is available in hardcover from Amazon.**