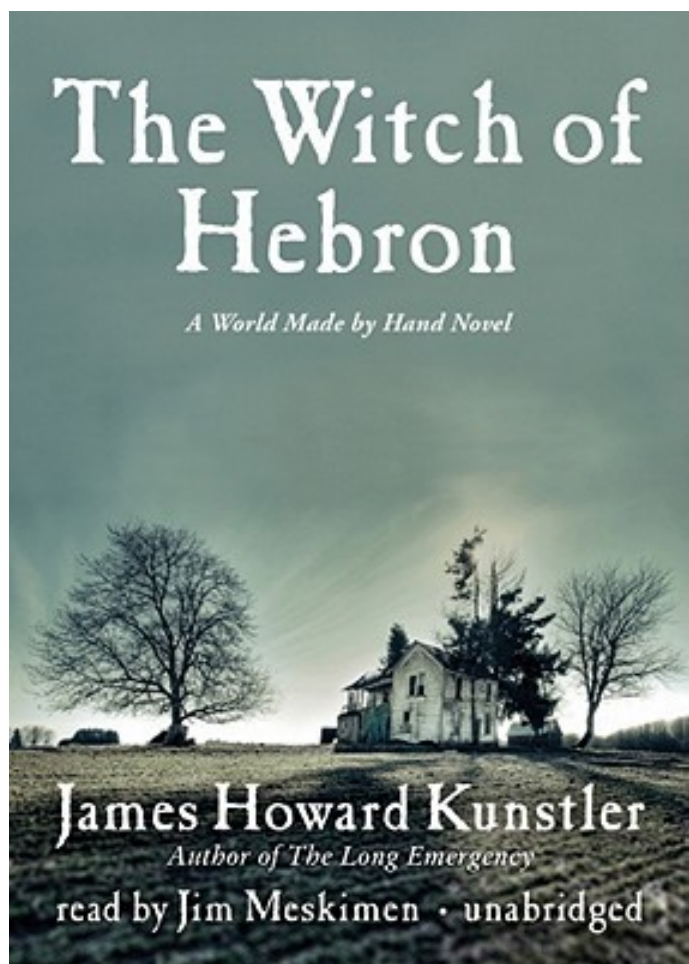

James Howard Kunstler

The Witch of Hebron (World Made by Hand #2)



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Author: James Howard Kunstler

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Description

In the sequel to his best-selling *World Made by Hand*, James Howard Kunstler expands on his vision of a post-oil society with a new novel about an America in which the electricity has flickered off, the Internet is a distant memory, and the government is little more than a rumor.

In the tiny hamlet of Union Grove, New York, travel is horse-drawn and farming is back at the center of life. But it's no pastoral haven. Wars are fought over dwindling resources and illness is a constant presence. Bandits roam the countryside, preying on the weak, and a sinister cult threatens to shatter Union Grove's fragile stability. Here is a novel that seamlessly weaves hot-button issues like the decline of oil and the perils of climate change into a compelling narrative of violence, religious hysteria, innocence lost, and love found—a cautionary tale with an optimistic heart.

Already a renowned social commentator and a best-selling novelist and nonfiction writer, Kunstler has recently attained even greater prominence in the global conversation about energy and the environment. In the last two years he has been the focus of a long profile in the *New Yorker*, the subject of a full-page essay in the *New York Times Book Review*, and his wildly popular blog and podcast have made him a sought-after speaker who gives dozens of lectures and scores of media interviews each year.

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Insightful reviews

Megan: Kunstler makes the post-oil life in a small upstate NY town sound a little too good to be true. Sure, half of the US population is dead, there's no electricity and people don't stray too far from home because of packs of roving bandits...but there's still fresh garden produce, local cheese, homemade wine and friendly neighbors. I am not sure of the author's message. We (well, half of us) will pull through the collapse of the world as we know it and establish a much simpler, but maybe richer, life? You better make sure that you live in a small town if you want to come out on the other side of Armageddon? Start stockpiling guns, seeds and clothes now so that you have something to protect yourself with and plenty to barter?

Sarcasm aside, I actually enjoyed this book - it's a sequel to "*World Made By Hand*" - despite the somewhat romanticized view of the future. There are some dark scenes that seem more believable and it's always interesting to think about the what ifs...

Dave: While I enjoyed this book's predecessor, *World Made By Hand*, this time Mr. Kunstler doesn't rehash as much of his non-fiction work (*The Long Emergency*, *The Geography of Nowhere*) as he did there. Instead, he jumps right into the story, and, for those of us familiar with his other work, the story is much better for it.

While *World Made By Hand* had some good story arcs and strong passages, the overall effect was less fluid than *The Witch of Hebron*. This time around it's pure story, and it's a fun ride, while providing plenty of food for thought on the many directions our society could take as we deal with the end of the "cheap oil fiesta," climate change, and the impact of the corporatization of our government.

Sam Wescott: I did like this book better than *World Made by Hand* as far as the actual story. The plot was more cohesive and the story arch felt more complete. It was a good story, whereas the other book was an exercise in world building and author surrogate characters.

But, James Howard Kunstler, you need to go talk to some women. Based on the way you write and treat them in these books, I am not convince you have ever actually met a women. There was no reason to include so much sexual violence in this book. Three rapes, one attempted rape, and the murder of a transwoman? Really? And if you really felt that you needed to include all that, could you not have made it mean something or carry consequence? Sophie is almost raped and never thinks about it or mentions it for the rest of the book. Barbara was violently raped and then never thinks about it or addresses it again. She's a point of view character, for crying out loud. Do you really not think that any of these women would experience trauma?

I understand that you really hate shopping malls and can't wait for the apocalypse, but could you turn the misogyny down a notch or five? I thought the gender roles in the first book were self-indulgent, but this level of sexual violence is just gross.

(Also, I was completely unconvinced about Jasper's age. He didn't read as 11 at all. You wrote a (maybe) 15 yr old who had an infantile attachment to his puppy.)

David: a really enjoyable book. i feel I loved it higher than the 1st book: a global *Made via Hand*. The motion within the moment e-book occurs a number of months after the first, on the finish of October, a few 12 months sooner or later after the cave in of business civilization on the finish of the oil age. The little nook of Washington County in up-state big apple seems extra just like the nineteenth century than the 21st. The small city of Union Grove is surrounded by means of small farms and the previous highschool construction is occupied by means of a brand new Christian sect from Virginia referred to as the hot Faith. Like the 1st book, Kunstler indicates what the realm may well glance like, and the way humans may perhaps reply to an international with out government, legislations and order, electricity, jobs and a lot more which we take without any consideration and do not even imagine about. however the moment ebook takes the story somewhat additional past Union Grove and weaves jointly a couple of random strands of varied characters' lives into an attractive story. the most strand is that of 11-year-old Jasper Copeland, the doctor's son, who runs clear of home. He meets up with a comical but ruthless bandit referred to as Billy Bones and reluctantly turns into his protege. the boys of Union Grove, whereas looking for the runaway, come across a well-kept family within the countryside, occupied by way of a lady who turns out to have a few other-worldly powers. additionally roaming the land is a tragic hermit, as soon as a butcher at a grocery store within the old-days, and now a hunter and trapper who's on his final hunt, decided to kill one of many catamounts

which freely roam the backwoods. The males looking for the boy go back empty-handed and enlist assistance from Brother Jobe, the chief of the recent Faithers. He and of his fans (who have been infantrymen in a struggle within the Holy Land within the death days of civilization) conform to look for the boy. to claim even more will be too revealing...With the environment of the motion on the finish of October, with Halloween coming on, Kunstler brings within the topics of existence and death, sturdy vs. evil, and the concept the department among those supposedly separate worlds is kind of tenuous. In a global without government, no legislation and order, the characters locate they must make their very own justice, within the moment, with their very own hands. And in doing so that they locate the adaptation among stable and evil to be flimsy indeed.

Chance Maree: whereas the characters and plot had promise, the impact of the radical felt very hole to me. i will in basic terms aspect to the prose itself, the place words have been coined from cerebral instead of visible or emotional words. a few moments have been obvious the place the author attempted to be writer-ly, which threw a rainy blanket more commonly scene and depressed the temper going forward. even though visible descriptions have been offered, none burned in my brain like different works i have read, but many may still have. whereas the characters moved and spoke and acted, none evoked that distinctive body spray that distinguishes one from the others. Frankly, the plot surprises have been yet jolts, like hitting small pot holes within the road; none involved nor intrigued me. the unconventional has paranormal elements, which themselves can be interesting, yet strangely, by no means fulfilled the promise. In an international the place lots was once lost, and the reader used to be continuously reminded of the methods issues had been, the feel used to be now not deep nor tragic, and sometimes pale to a colorless background. i used to be unconvinced of the author's imaginative and prescient of that world, and of the characters relocating via it. That said, the dealing with of tale and descriptive texts have been competent, so my score is 3.5, yet no longer adequate magic transpired to maneuver it to four stars.

Docta_b: Kunstler's sequel is pleasing enough, even though it maintains the very masculine tilt of a lot of his writing. the feminine characters during this book, at the very least the first helping woman, really has extra measurement than any in 'World Made through Hand' although I did locate it a little bit bothersome that her energy was once principally derived from sexual impact (even if of the witchy, cerebral nature) over men. Still, a great sufficient read. needs to say this now seems like a trapse into escapism fiction progressively more instead of an eye fixed beginning glimpse right into a very attainable destiny because the first during this (suspected) trilogy.

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