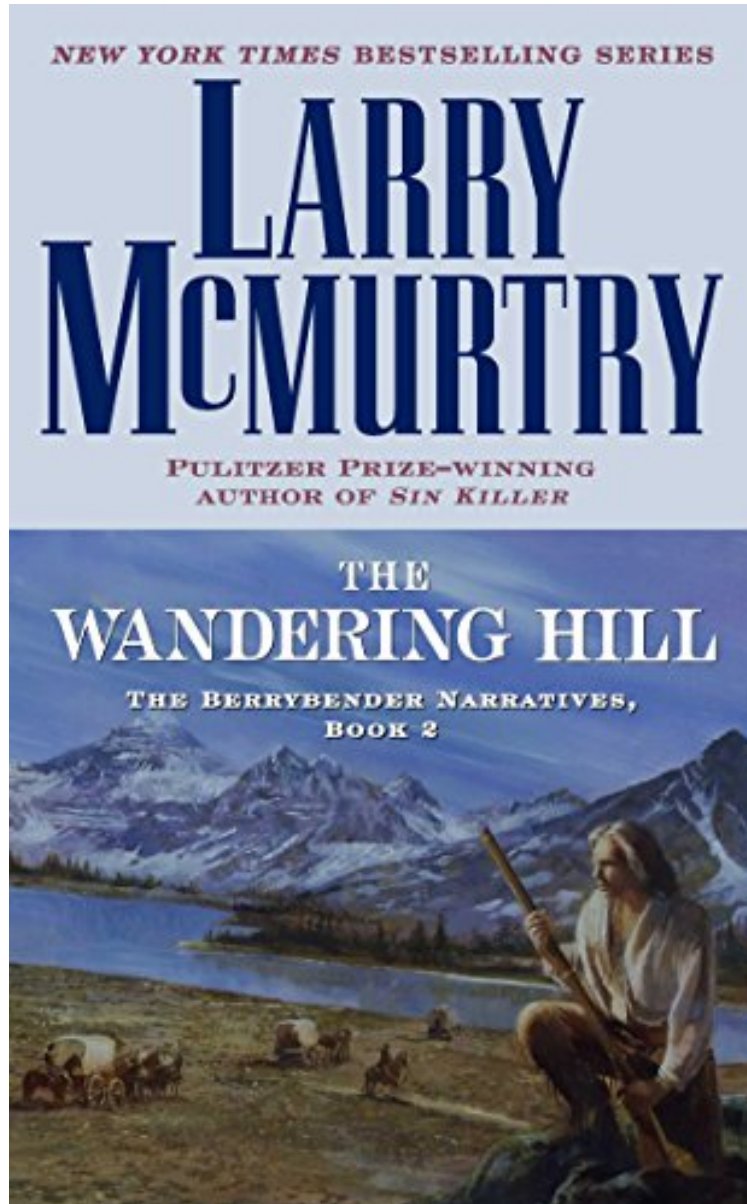


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## The Wandering Hill: The Berrybender Narratives, Book 2

Von Larry McMurtry

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Von Larry McMurtry : **The Wandering Hill: The Berrybender Narratives, Book 2** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Wandering Hill: The Berrybender Narratives, Book 2:

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Lives amid Quick and Unexpected Dangers Von Donald Mitchell If you enjoyed *The Sin Killer*, you're wondering what happened to the many people left in cliff hangar situations. *The Wandering Hill* will answer all of those questions and leave you with new cliff hangars to keep you plowing forward into *By Sorrow's River*, book 3 in the Berrybender saga. If you haven't read *The Sin Killer*, please do go back. This will be a two star book without background to make you more interested in the characters. *The Wandering Hill* refers to a Native American belief that a certain hill is filled with devils that will attack anyone who comes too near. Naturally, that means the wandering hill threatens danger . . . if not death. The omen turns out to be prescient in this story. At the end of *The Sin Killer*, the Berrybender party was headed for a trading post to winter after their steamship was stuck in the frozen Missouri. Lord Berrybender's valet was enjoying life as a presumed Buffalo man (a god-like creature to the Native Americans) with two fat wives to keep him warm. *The Wandering Hill* is a more sober and tragic story. Tasmin Berrybender and her husband, Jim Snow (the *Sin Killer*), try to adapt to married life as Tasmin carries their first child. Tasmin finds Jim's rebukes for swearing no less annoying than in *The Sin Killer* . . . and she eventually fortifies herself to do something about it. Jim finds Tasmin's constant need to ask philosophical questions nearly drives him mad. He finds Tasmin a poor substitute for a squaw wife except when it comes to "rutting". He continues to dislike indoor life, and they settle into a drafty tent for the winter. Tasmin finds herself wondering what she really wants from marriage. The Buffalo man meets a terrible end at the hands of the Partezon, a Sioux chief. Mary develops a weird relationship with an older man that seems intended for comic relief while making fun of Old World "sophistication". Lord Berrybender becomes even more easily offended and strikes out in ever more dangerous ways. He becomes even more a figure of ridicule in this book than in *The Sin Killer*. New characters are added to this picaresque chronicle as more mountain men join the group at the trading post, we meet more Native Americans and the story reaches a climax when the trading post comes under unexpected attack. This book is much darker than *The Sin Killer* . . . and not nearly as humorous. Much like a long winter spent on the plains, it's a little on the boring side. The occasional humorous flap and joke are much appreciated . . . but there really isn't enough of either.

Kurzbeschreibung Pulitzer Prize-winning author Larry McMurtry continues his epic four-novel telling of *The Berrybender Narratives* with a new adventure that is both a grand literary achievement and riveting entertainment as forged by a master wordsmith. . . . The indefatigable Tasmin Berrybender and her eccentric family trek on through the unexplored Wild West of 1830s America -- and suffer the harsh realities of the untamed wilderness, including sickness, brutal violence and death, the desertion of trusted servants, and the increasing hardships of daily life in a land where survival is never certain. Filled with larger-than-life legendary figures such as mountain men Jim Bridger and Kit Carson, vividly rendered action, irresistible good humor, and an ever-changing cast of characters that readers will treasure, *The Wandering Hill* proves again that Larry McMurtry still reigns as the first statesman of the Old West. . . . *The Wandering Hill*, the second volume in Larry McMurtry's *The Berrybender Narratives*, retains the humor of the first installment, *Sin Killer*, while establishing a more meditative mood. Picking up where *Sin Killer* left off, *The Wandering Hill* finds noble English family the Berrybenders waiting out the oncoming winter at a high plains trading post, delaying their hunting expedition through the frontier-era American west. Tight confines force the spirited, bickering Berrybenders to contend with one another, as well as an assortment of colorful attendants and raw trappers. Conflict has arisen between fiery and very pregnant heroine Tasmin and her stoical, evangelical mountain man husband Jim Snow, a.k.a. *Sin Killer*. Selfish, randy patriarch Lord Berrybender, having lost a leg, seven toes, and three fingers thus far on their journey (though not his "favorite appendage"), is slowly losing his sanity. Malicious youngest child Mary begins an odd pseudo-sexual friendship with naturalist Piet Van Wely, while "foppish" heir Bobbety's no less ambiguous relationship with priest Father Geoffrin inspires his father to accidentally stick his son in the eye with a fork. In between many such self-inflicted disasters, three children are born, fierce native tribes attack, a man is sewn into a buffalo carcass, and many lives are lost, often in the presence of a strange, mobile hill whose legendary appearance signals impending doom. McMurtry, meanwhile, continues the momentum he built with *Sin Killer*, offering graceful storytelling, wonderfully dimensional realism, and deadpan wit. The wintry *Wandering Hill*, however, diverges from *Sin Killer*'s madcap activity to further consider the inner lives of many of its splendid characters. McMurtry will have his fans clamoring for an answer, though delighting in his wandering path toward a resolution. --Ross Doll From Booklist \*Starred\* This is the second volume in a projected four-part series following the aristocratic Berrybender family as they traverse various frontier river systems in the 1830s. As in the first installment, *Sin Killer* [BKL Ap 1 02], the feisty, passionate Tasmin Berrybender and her enigmatic, primitive husband, Jim Snow, occupy the center of the story. These two individuals are the most compelling and memorable of McMurtry's characters since Augustus McCrae and Woodrow Call graced the pages of *Lonesome Dove* (1985). Now they and a fascinating cast of both fictional and historical characters interact in a wonderful pageant that re-creates the era of the mountain men who hunted and trapped along the upper Missouri and its tributaries. McMurtry offers a full range of Native American personalities, from chronically hostile Blackfeet to half-assimilated Utes to a frightening, sociopathic

Lakota. The historical characters include a youthful Kit Carson, a grizzled Hugh Glass, and Pomp Charbonneau, the son of Sacagawea. The latter was educated in Europe but is irresistibly drawn back to the frontier, and his efforts to navigate between two worlds are particularly poignant. The landscape is stunningly beautiful, but the beauty is often disrupted by spasmodic, gruesome violence. Nonetheless, this novel is an engrossing, exciting, and sometimes heart-rending saga of the American West that shows McMurtry at his best; and it will be in heavy library demand. Jay Freeman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved