

Wildalone

William Morrow

By Krassi Zourkova

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Introduction

In this enchanting and darkly imaginative debut novel full of myth, magic, romance, and mystery, a Princeton freshman is drawn into a love triangle with two enigmatic brothers, and discovers terrifying secrets about her family and herself—a bewitching blend of *Twilight*, *The Secret History*, *Jane Eyre*, and *A Discovery of Witches*.



Questions for Discussion

1. WILDALONE is steeped in mythology, from the Balkan Samodivi to the Greek Orpheus and Dionysus. How did these myths and mythic characters underpin Krassi Zourkova's novel?
2. What are the similarities and differences between the two sets of siblings: sisters Elza and Thea, and brothers Rhys and Jake?
3. What are some of the challenges Thea faces when she comes to Princeton from Bulgaria? How did those challenges and cultural differences enrich the novel?
4. What is the connection between the myths and folklore, and the poetry and music in WILDALONE? How do music and poetry help create a particular mood and express some feelings for the characters?
5. How would you characterize or describe Thea? Is she naïve? Strong? Is she innocent in the complicated relationships of the novel or complicit?
6. Did you prefer Rhys or Jake as the better love interest for Thea? Why?
7. The book moves from the psychological to the supernatural. What did you enjoy about either or both aspects of the story?
8. Thea is at the center of a number of complex relationships, though her feelings for Rhys and Jake are at the heart of the story. Why did her love for the brothers outweigh her love of her sister? In what ways was her connection to the Estlins stronger than her connection to Elza?

9. What were your impressions of the character Silen? Did you find him to be benevolent? Did your ideas about him change as the novel went on and his role in Elza and Rhys's life was clarified?

10. WILDALONE has been compared to supernatural romances by authors like Stephenie Meyer and Deborah Harkness. What do you think of these comparisons? What elements of the novel, the romantic or the supernatural, did you enjoy most and why? Why do you think romance and supernatural themes can work successfully together in a novel?