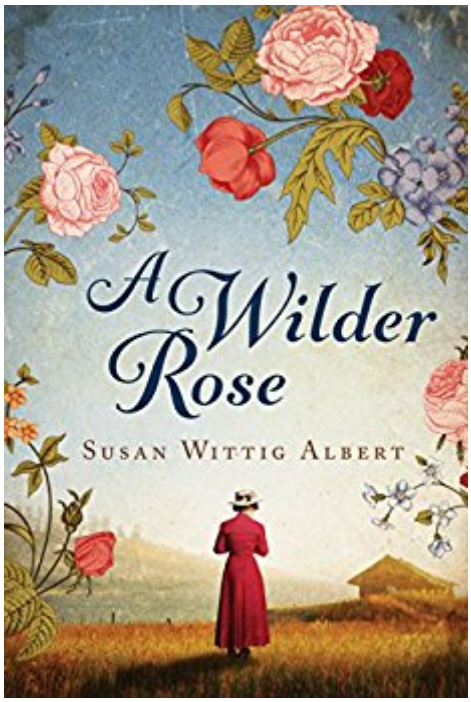
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A Wilder Rose: A Novel



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Synopsis

The Little House books, which chronicled the pioneer adventures of Laura Ingalls Wilder, are among the most beloved books in the American literary canon. Lesser known is the secret, concealed for decades, of how they came to be. Now, bestselling author Susan Wittig Albert reimagines the fascinating story of LauraÃ¢â ¬â„¢s daughter, Rose Wilder Lane, an intrepid world traveler and writer who returned to her parentsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ Ozark farm, Rocky Ridge, in 1928. There she began a collaboration with her mother on the pioneer stories that would captivate generations of readers around the world.Despite the booksÃ¢â ¬â„¢ success, RoseÃ¢â ¬â„¢s involvement would remain a secret long after both women died. A vivid account of a great literary deception, A Wilder Rose is a spellbinding tale of a complicated mother-daughter relationship set against the brutal backdrop of the Great Depression.Revised edition: This edition of A Wilder Rose: A Novel includes editorial revisions.

Book Information

File Size: 5922 KB

Print Length: 303 pages

Publisher: Lake Union Publishing (March 17, 2015)

Publication Date: March 17, 2015

Sold by:Ã Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00NWS4AL2

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #1,700 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #6 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Women's Fiction > Mothers & Children #7 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Literary Fiction > Biographical #8 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Biographical

Customer Reviews

I have extremely complicated thoughts about this book. I am a huge fan of Laura Ingalls Wilder's

books, which then led me to a lifetime of research into Laura the person. I knew the basics about Rose - more than the average LIW fan, but still not a lot - and so I was very curious to read this book. However, knowing that she not only agreed with William Holz's biography of Rose, The Ghost in the Little House: A Life of Rose Wilder Lane, but used it in her research, made me more than a little wary.For those who don't know, Holz's book puts forward the theory that Rose was really the author of the Little House books, or at the very least a co-author. The book caused a huge uproar among LIW fans, for obvious reasons. I still don't know what I think, and someday I hope to have a chance to examine Laura's original manuscripts, or at least copies of them, to get a feel for what really went on.But back to A Wilder Rose: first off, as I started reading, I didn't want to stop. As much as it upset me to read a lot of it, it was also fascinating to learn more about Rose. But reading about her relationship with Laura - which was undoubtedly complicated, at best - was incredibly painful for me. Rose was the only child of Laura and Almanzo Wilder to live past infancy, and her parents - moreso her mother - had a very hard time letting go of her. Yet in some ways, Rose and Laura were almost too much alike, only Rose got the freedom and unconventional life that Laura had imagined for herself.About 2/3 of the way through the book I sort of lost momentum. It seemed to be just repeating the same ideas over and over again: Rose was stuck living at Rocky Ridge, feeling the pressure to look after everyone, even as she took on responsibility for more and more people. She thought that the royalties from Little House in the Big Woods, Farmer Boy, and Little House on the Prairie (LIW's contract was originally for three books) would allow her parents to support themselves without financial dependence on her, but she didn't expect there to be eight books that she would spend months rewriting. The theme of Rose's "prison" became very dragging on the book, and I just wanted to tell her to get over herself! Either help or not, but shut up about it! I probably should have been feeling sympathy, but I just got tired of her excuses for why she couldn't possibly change her situation.I also wish that it had felt a little less like: "this happened, and then this happened, and then this happened..." Despite the interludes where 53-year-old Rose talks about the past decade of her life with a young writer friend (which I actually found distracting) eventually the litany of depression (granted, it takes place during the Great Depression) becomes almost suffocating. She talks about loving John Turner (one of her informally "adopted" sons) but as a reader, I never really saw WHY she did, and I wasn't really sure I saw the expression of that love, either.In fact many of the characters in the book seem to be underdeveloped. Outside of Rose and Laura, you rarely get a sense of the other characters. We don't understand what they saw in Rose, or what Rose saw in them. One example is Rose's friend "Troub" (AKA Helen Boylston): the author hints at a romantic relationship between the two, but I wish it had been stated conclusively one way

or the other. As it is written, it just felt like the author didn't want to make a decision one way or the other.However, overall, I'd recommend this book to those interested in Laura and Rose. While I can't say it is historical fact (the reader has to keep in mind that it is a novel, although I wish that she'd taken a cue from Rose herself and allowed herself more literary freedom to shape the story) it is factual enough to be interesting, and to make me want to explore more about Rose.I received this book as an ARC from NetGalley in exchange for a fair and honest review.

I read this book because I read the Little House books as a child and still remember them fondly. This book was interesting because it went beyond the series, but it became boring and mechanical, and seemed to repeat the same theme....Rose writes for money, helps her mother and father, spends too much, needs some money, so she writes to make some money, etc. She also always wanted to be free of her parents yet took seriously her responsibility to take care of them. Rose did not handle money well and seemed to adopt folks for sometimes unclear reasons that were not developed well. She was well-known but I'm not sure how well-liked.It did not paint a great picture of Laura Ingalls Wilder, but maybe that is to be expected because the children's books were written for children. I did not get a good feeling for who Rose really was. I know she was very independent, and I did like her world adventures, and she probably was a really interesting person. I may read a book that Rose wrote sometime.

I think I went into this book with expectations and they certainly were different than the actual story. The relationship between Rose and her Mother Laura was a very complicated one. This book was a learning experience for me. I'm just not convinced it was stuff I really needed to know. I liked living with my fantasy and memories. That being said, it was well written and engaging. Rose was very well developed. I wanted to know more about her. Very voyeuristic I suppose, but there were things hinted at that makes you want just a little bit info. Well done.

When I read the first few pages, I wasn't sure I would like this book that described my beloved Laura as domineering, but as I read on, I realized that this is how many daughters feel about their mothers. I found the story believable. It is presented as fiction, but I imagine that is so that scenes could be included to present a larger truth when evidence was lacking. And in the end, it seems Rose and her mother were both the strong women I have so long admired.

I ended up enjoying the book a little more by the time I was half way through it, but I am not a big

fan of the narrative way in which the story was told. I guess I was expecting more fact and less speculation. I also have to admit that some of my fond memories of reading the "Little House" series as a child were shattered by the evidence indicating that Rose Wilder may have actually written more of the series than her mother. I also found the descriptions of Laura and Almanzo a little less flattering than I had assumed that they would be and this was disappointing. I was also hoping I would read about a longer period of time than the 15-20 years covered in the book. Sometimes not knowing the history of Rose's childhood made the emotions a little hard to follow and made Rose sound like a somewhat spoiled child complaining about imagined wrongs.

(Fiction, Biography, Book-related) 3.5 star ratingMany of you have read and loved the pioneer stories of Laura Ingalls Wilder. Some of you are aware of the controversy surrounding her storiesÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •allegations that it was, not Laura, but LauraÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s daughter Rose Wilder, who wrote the Little House books.Witting Albert makes this case, rather convincingly, in this novel based on WilderÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s life between 1928 and 1939.. She uses some artistic license to imagine the communications between Laura and Rose.Read this if: youÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve read and enjoyed Laura Ingalls WilderÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Little House books. 3Ãƒâ Ã Â stars

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