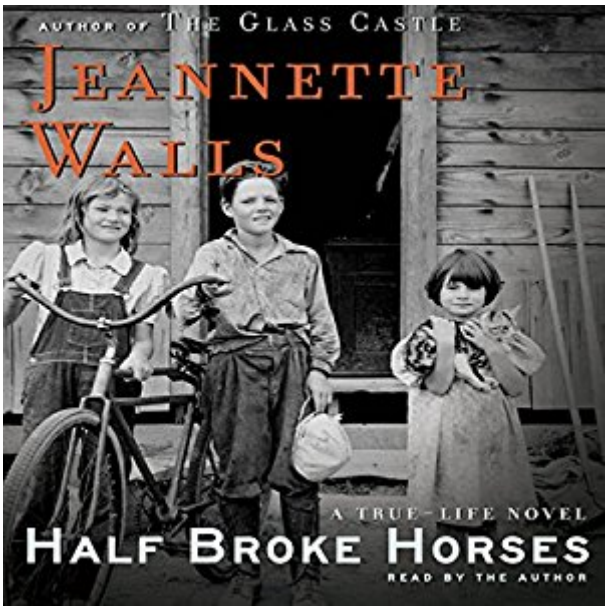
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Half Broke Horses: A True-Life Novel



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Synopsis

Jeannette Walls’s memoir The Glass Castle was "nothing short of spectacular" (Entertainment Weekly). Now, in Half Broke Horses, she brings us the story of her grandmother, told in a first-person voice that is authentic, irresistible, and triumphant. "Those old cows knew trouble was coming before we did." So begins the story of Lily Casey Smith, Jeannette Walls’s no nonsense, resourceful, and spectacularly compelling grandmother. By age six, Lily was helping her father break horses. At fifteen, she left home to teach in a frontier town -- riding five hundred miles on her pony, alone, to get to her job. She learned to drive a car ("I loved cars even more than I loved horses. They didn’t need to be fed if they weren’t working, and they didn’t leave big piles of manure all over the place") and fly a plane. And, with her husband Jim, she ran a vast ranch in Arizona. She raised two children, one of whom is Jeannette’s memorable mother, Rosemary Smith Walls, unforgettably portrayed in The Glass Castle. Lily survived tornadoes, droughts, floods, the Great Depression, and the most heartbreaking personal tragedy. She bristled at prejudice of all kinds -- against women, Native Americans, and anyone else who didn’t fit the mold. Rosemary Smith Walls always told Jeannette that she was like her grandmother, and in this true-life novel, Jeannette Walls channels that kindred spirit. Half Broke Horses is Laura Ingalls Wilder for adults, as riveting and dramatic as Isak Dinesen’s Out of Africa or Beryl Markham’s West with the Night. Destined to become a classic, it will transfix audiences everywhere. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition
Listening Length: 7 hoursÃ Â andÃ Â 55 minutes
Program Type: Audiobook
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Publisher: Simon & Schuster Audio
Audible.com Release Date: October 6, 2009
Language: English
ASIN: B002RSRPVA
Best Sellers Rank: #32 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Biographical #34 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical > Biographical #49 inÃ Â Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Historical Fiction

Customer Reviews

It’s an OK book, a good follow up for me after reading "The Glass Castle". Helps to explain some of

the disfunction of the author's family of origin but also her strength and that of her siblings.

I read The Glass Castle first and marveled at the tough life Jeannette and her siblings had put up with considering the instability of their parents. This book should actually be read first to understand the flippant character of her parents.

This section of Jeanette Wall's background helped explain items in The Glass Castle. Both books were terrific. I went ahead and read Silver Star, which I also enjoyed. What an accomplished woman to have overcome so much trauma.

I read this since I thoroughly enjoyed The Glass Castle. Well, Ms. Walls has another hit with this book. Reading about the life of her grandmother back in the decade before automobiles was informative and refreshing. Jeannette's mother, who we all despised in The Glass Castle, came from hard working, innovative parents. Rose Mary was allowed to run free on the ranch and she saw how hard her parents worked to maintain their ranch. She chose to just run free in her own life. I highly recommend both of these Walls books. They're very entertaining and I think, informative.

Great prequel for The Glass Castle. It helps full in a lot of the blanks.

Great Reading book, light reading and the book has it ups and downs.

It was interesting to learn about the history at that time and I was glad to learn about Jeannette Wall's grandmother. I felt a little bit better about her mother after reading this. But I didn't like first person in this book. It made Lily sound like she was bragging and I really didn't like her very much. She put financial gain above everything else, even her own children. However, my sister loved the book.

I loved this as much as the Glass Castle. I have read it twice and have chosen it for my book club. All have enjoyed it.

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