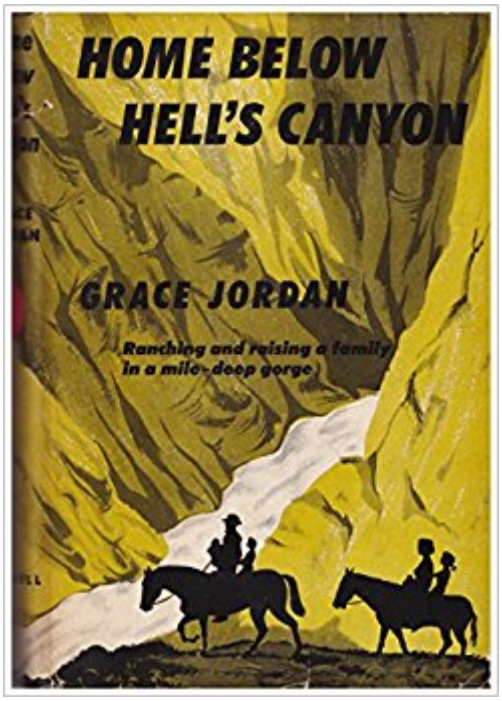
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Home Below Hell's Canyon



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Synopsis

This is the true story of a modern pioneer family who settled deep in the gorge of Idaho’s Snake River. It was 1932 at the height of the depression that the Jordans decided to make their home in this wild and nearly inaccessible section of Idaho. Friends and family were horrified when they announced the move, for the Jordan’s were taking their children with them - Steve, aged 7 months; Joe, 3 1/2; and Patsy, 6. Their new home, Kirkwood Bar Ranch, lay on the treacherous Snake just below Hell’s Canyon, the deepest scar on North America’s face. Here, miles from neighbors and hemmed in by towering canyon walls, Grace and Len Jordan hoped to "make a stake" raising sheep. In winter their day began long before dawn. There were eneless hearty meals to be prepared for family and hired help; lessons at home for the children, for they were a day’s ride from the nearest school; canning, gardening and soap making; and an unceasing effort to live on the most frugal cash outlay. The demands of the sheep kept Len away for days or weeks at a time, leaving Grace and the children alone on the ranch. Once Patsy, Joe, and Steve went eleven months without seeing other Children. But canyon living had its compensations - thrilling horseback trips over such dizzy heights as Suicide Point; boat trips on the plunging Snake; holiday parties with friends and neighbors who rode for hours through the snow for such events; and intimate family evenings by the "Rochester lamp." In Home Below Hell’s Canyon Grace Jordan describes the family adventure with engaging warmth. A story of people who dared to gamble on their endurance, initiative, and luck, asking no odds from anyone, this is an intensely human account, filled with fun and danger, courage and rich family life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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I love this book. I married the little boy, Steve. This story is a true story about the years the Jordan family spent on a sheep ranch in Hell's Canyon. I will never know how she managed to home-school her children, grow gardens, and can the winter's supply of fruits and vegetables on a wood stove in the sweltering summer heat of the canyon. She prepared meals for the ranch-hands whenever they were around the house at mealtimes, yet she was the perfect lady when her husband became the governor of Idaho and later as a U,S. senator from Idaho. I cried when the book ended as I wish it could go on forever. This is a heartwarming story of a family who managed to live through the depression in a harsh environment but they were always close to each other and surrounded by love.

A great first person reflection on a life lived in Hell's Canyon on the Snake River. Beyond civilization and during the depression. Amazing personal endurance and achievement. It is well written and reads fast. You can really feel their life and challenges, which are vast. Knowing the area makes it even more amazing. And they weren't the only ones living in the Canyon. You meet most the others through this account. They were sheep ranchers with 100 head or more. Weather is not easy in the

summer or winter. Through Grace's eyes you read some about eastern Oregon, and Lewiston to Orofino to Grangeville in Idaho. This was when paddle wheelers travelled the Snake and passenger trains came into Lewiston. Through all this adventure and then Len Jordan went on the become Governor of Idaho, but that is another story.

If you have been to Idaho or traveled the rivers in this majestic area this book is a must read. I read this book as I was traveling down the river on a raft trip. I am amazed at the resourcefulness of this amazing family. I got the chance to actually visit their ranch and was able to visualize the life full adventures they led. Grace Jordan was one of the reasons the family survived and thrived in an era and location that many could or would not.

This book came with hi ratings----telling a tale of life in the 30ties on a secluded sheep ranch on the Snake River. For those of us who lived similar lives it reminds us of those days---boring as hell. But I'm sure as hell glad I was born then and not now------some contrast.

dear sirs I love the book and read it every other year. knew many of the people in the book including the author. have just about worn out my fathers copy and wanted to save it. that is why I bought this book. it is in very good condition. I am 83 y old. sincerely Barbara

This is a true story, and reading it gives one a perspective on living on an isolated ranch without the modern conveniences we take for granted. There are dangers, hardships and frustrations galore, but the author and her family has the pioneer spirit and grit that carries them through the most trying of circumstances. Since I have seen the general area from the river, I am amazed that someone could live there during that time period. It's a wonderful book to read.

We are going to be Forest Service caretakers/volunteers at Kirkwood Ranch, living for one month in the house so vividly described in "Home Below Hell's Canyon". Any who read this accounting by Grace Jordan, might catch the bug to volunteer at Kirkwood as well. Hooray for the pioneer spirit trying to eek out, and off, the technology/cellular grid - for one month.

Sould be required reading for women comtemplating a 'simple lifestyle'. Combines a picture of the work and the wonder of living on the Snake River in 1933 with 3 small children, isolated from almost everything and everyone. What a wealth of experience graced the life of Grace Jordan at a cost of

work and worry that would put most of us modern women to shame. She was the real deal! Visiting the Jordan ranch after reading this book was the icing on the cake! Oh, you can google earth the ranch if visiting it is not an option.

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