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The First Four Years (Little House)



Synopsis

For the first time in the history of the Little House books, this new edition features Garth Williams's interior art in vibrant full color. Laura Ingalls Wilder is beginning life with her new husband, Almanzo, in their own little house. Laura is a young pioneer wife now, and must work hard with Almanzo, farming the land around their home on the South Dakota prairie. Soon their baby daughter, Rose, is born, and the young family must face the hardships and triumphs encountered by so many American pioneers. And so Laura Ingalls Wilder's adventure as a little pioneer girl ends, and her new life as a pioneer wife and mother begins. The nine Little House books have been cherished by generations of readers as both a unique glimpse into America's frontier past and a heartwarming, unforgettable story. Correlates to the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts

Book Information

Series: Little House (Book 9)

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 152 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,214,834 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Reference > Citizenship #1106 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1800s #5486 in Books > Children's Books > Classics

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

"The vast number of devotees of the earlier books will rejoice in [this] important sequel to "These Happy Golden Years." -- "Horn Book" --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

For the first time in the history of the Little House books, this new edition features Garth Williams's interior art in vibrant, full color, as well as a beautifully redesigned cover. Laura Ingalls Wilder is beginning life with her new husband, Almanzo, in their own little house. Laura is a young pioneer wife now, and must work hard with Almanzo, farming the land around their home on the South Dakota prairie. Soon their baby daughter, Rose, is born, and the young family must face the hardships and triumphs encountered by so many American pioneers. And so Laura Ingalls Wilder's adventure as a little pioneer girl ends, and her new life as a pioneer wife and mother begins. The nine Little House books have been cherished by generations of readers as both a unique glimpse into America's frontier past and a heartwarming, unforgettable story.

For a little girl who LOVES the Laura Ingalls Wilder books, this was a hit. A child who randomly picks it up probably would not enjoy it as much. If this was the colorized version I would have certainly rated the book 4 stars since the illustrations really pop and the heavier weight paper is definitely a plus for a book that will be in this little girl's library for many, many years. Bottom line, if you know a Laura Ingalls Wilder lover the book will be welcomed and a nice continuation of the story and completes the series. If the reader is not an established fan, this book won't make him or her a convert.

Published posthumously, *The First Four Years* is the unedited draft of what appeared to be Wilder's next book in her popular Little House series. Laura Ingalls is now Laura Wilder, learning to settle into her new life with husband Almanzo in a little home of their very own. Despite her childhood reluctance to grow up and become a farmer's wife, Laura has done exactly that! Almanzo and Laura strike a bargain: she will let him try farming for three years, and if it works, then she will happily remain a farmer's wife. However, if the venture fails, then Almanzo has promised that after three years, he will give up farming and try his hand at something new. And so the reader is taken on a journey through the first three years (and one more) of their marriage. Among the ups and downs, Laura learns to ride a pony, baby Rose is introduced, and Almanzo falls so sick that he will never be able to walk without the aid of a cane. I had always adored Wilder's portrayal of her pioneer youth. With every Little House book I finished, I found myself charged with energy to go extract maple sap, grind my own flour, or make cheese the good old fashioned way. No matter how tough Wilder's youth had been, she had always managed to weave a great deal of hope in her stories and a general sentiment that everything would turn out okay. *The First Four Years* is no different, but because of its lack of completion (and thus, closure) and editing, it carries a definitely more

grown-up air than the rest of the Little House books. Wilder doesn't glance over the hardships in this book the way she did in the others, so at times, it seems bleak and without hope; the reader gets to follow Wilder as she keeps tabs on the family's dire financial situation and her emotional state after a tragic accident where she was partially to blame. The First Four Years made for a fantastic, quick read, but it wasn't exactly the happy return to innocence that I was expecting. I recommend it--but with caution to folks who are expecting the same type of rustic romanticism found in the rest of the series.[...]

Very Good but very sad. Laura Ingalls Wilder was one tough cookie. I feel like all people could learn a lesson from watching her just never give up. Our family has listened to all the little house books and this one was by far the most sad. I also wanted to know more when I finished it. It stops and you are left wondering about what happens to her family in the future. We were glad to have read this last book of hers. It is nice to know that later in life she wrote these books for us all to read so despite her adversity she gets to have a good future and live a long life!

This is a WONDERFUL book . It is valuable because it gives us a vivid picture of the REAL hardships faced by a young couple in the first years of their marriage It does depict struggles and disappointments along with the joys of daily living in a different time and culture .My reaction to this story is that it is realistic because it documents the truth that life is NEVER easy for even the best and brightest . Much of the "success" a person achieves is simply correlated to the attitude he displays when confronted with a challenge or disappointment . I was grateful that the hardships were NOT ignored : health scares, crop failures, disastrous weather and tensions between a man and a woman who disagree .There are lessons to be treasured here on the truth that life is an obstacle course for each person who inhabits this world , and every generation is presented with a varying and unique assortment of predicaments that create something called "HISTORY".I loved visualizing Laura 's world and her challenges along with the simple pleasures she enjoyed like wild flowers, her hand made storage kitchen cabinet , and the one seat sleigh or 'cutter' that provided winter transportation across the prairie in harsh winter weather. AS a girl I remember walking to the local library and checking out this series of books. In hindsight I believe that they created a lifelong passion for history and a fascination for learning about the challenges of previous generations . I am now a 60 year old woman , and still derive great pleasure from reading about Laura's world . Her books provide cherished vivid escape even still.Those who are interested in Laura's life might also enjoy the memoirs of Flora Lewis "Larkrise To Candleford" .

I'm all about books about Laura Ingalls Wilder, my favorite childhood author. I like the Little House series better, but one wants to know what becomes of Laura as an adult, so this is a must-read.

I love this book series. So much things detailed in it perfectly! How built a house that time, how made the cheese, how kids played, how they stored food to getting ready for Winter, how they traveled, etc. So much learning in it! People was independent.

This books seems to have been written by a different author, as the writing style has changed drastically. Still a very good book but makes you wonder what else was going on, as this book has a very narrow focus.

Definitely a different tone than the other books. The beginning is confusing on account of where the previous book left off.

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