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Biography of the daughter who wrote the fictionalize account of living in west, Little house in the big woods.

Rose Wilder Lane: Her Story Details

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From Reader Review Rose Wilder Lane: Her Story for online ebook

Jomariem says

This looked like a very interesting read when I found at a used bookstore, since I've read all of LIW's books and wanted to find out more about Rose, who is also a very fascinating figure in her own right. But it turned into kind of a disappoint for me in some respects. If you think that this book is going to be a biography about Rose's entire life (which the cover gives the impression that it is), you'll be sadly mistaken. Rather, it starts when Rose leaves Mansfield for good to start a new life of her own, and then ends sometime during the WWI period. While this book does reflect the struggles that Rose had in making a life for herself, at a time when women were not considered equals in most workplaces, and there are some rather descriptive phrases here and there, for the most part this was not exactly a great read. First off, the chapters don't seem to blend seamlessly into one another, as they should do in a good book. It's almost more like a series of separate stories from Rose's young adult life, where one chapter will end abruptly, and the next will pick up two or three years later, leaving the reader to try to figure out exactly what happened in between that time. There are no dates listed ANYWHERE in the book, so it's hard to know exactly what happened what year. There's a LOT of stuff missing that I felt should have been in there. There was virtually NOTHING about Rose's childhood, very little mention of Laura and Almanzo (after Rose leaves for California, they just seem to be added as afterthoughts here and there) and NO mention of the San Francisco earthquake of 1906, which happened when Rose was in California, and was such a massive event that it would have obviously affected her to some extent. Yet in this book it's as if it never happened. As for Rose's wedding to Gil Lane, we get absolutely NO info about what kind of wedding she had, or how her parents felt about it; one chapter ends with Gil proposing to her, and in the next, she's a married woman two years later, and STILL with no info about Laura's and Almanzo's feelings about Gil. And what about the stillborn baby she had? There's no mention of HIM, either. And as for Paul, I thought his last name was Cooley, not Masters, and there's no mention of his brother, George, either. All this makes me wonder how much of the stuff in this book is real, and what has been embellished, twisted around to suit the story, or made up. This is far from being the best biography I've ever read, and I hope somebody can write something MUCH more thorough about Rose's life. She was a remarkable woman who deserves a more well-rounded biography.

Juliewheatcox.Net says

I felt that this book was inappropriately written as a children's book since it dealt heavily with Rose's bad relationships with men. It was sad to learn that she had such a hard life after leaving home. I applaud her independence of spirit that her mother & father instilled in her, and was happy that she finally found success with her writing career. But this book dealt heavily with a woman overcoming working in a man's world and the sordid ugly facets entailed. Also not a subject for children.

Eatcelery says

An interesting biography of her. She is so unusual compared to most other women of her time. I think I read this book before this though.

Rebecca says

Despite the claims made on the book's jacket, *Rose Wilder Lane: Her Story*, is not autobiography, nor was it compiled from RWL's letters and diaries. It is, rather, a thinly edited reissue of her 1919 novel *Diverging Roads* with a few names changed.

Since *Diverging Roads* was at least partly drawn from Lane's life, one might forgive Roger MacBride, her adopted grandson and literary executor, for attempting to pass off this update as autobiography, had he not changed the ending and thereby altered the whole meaning of the story. *Her Story* ends with (view spoiler), though MacBride notes in an epilogue that in real life, Lane did no such thing. Neither did the heroine of her original novel. MacBride's revision leaves out several wonderful passages concerning the value of female friendship and the difficult choices women faced if they wanted to have a career in the early 20th century. Lane chose to live an adventurous and unconventional life. Her story ought to reflect that.

If you really want to know what Rose Wilder Lane thought about life and love and marriage, skip this sanitized fairy tale and find a copy of *Diverging Roads*.

Kressel Housman says

Little House fans who've carried their fandom into adulthood already know about Team Laura versus Team Rose. For those not in the know, there are scholars who argue that Laura Ingalls Wilder's daughter, Rose Wilder Lane, was the real writer of the *Little House* series. But there are also plenty of Laura defenders who absolutely reject that idea. As is my wont, I took the middle of the road approach and viewed the series as a close collaboration between the two, but his book tilts me more in favor of Rose. Its storytelling style is very similar to *Little House*, though the subject matter is meant for a more mature audience.

This is Rose's coming of age story, her transition from country girl to feminist of the early twentieth century. The transition comes mainly, though not exclusively, through a love triangle as Rose navigates the choices between the church-going boy from back home and the city sophisticate she marries and divorces. Feminists may applaud Rose's ultimate independence, but it should not be overlooked that Rose had a keen nostalgia for domesticity, which of course comes through in the *Little House* series.

If you're one of those Laura defenders who can't view Rose charitably, you probably won't like this book, but I found it an amazingly relevant story about lost innocence. You don't have to have been raised on the prairie to appreciate it. If you've ever felt like a fish out of water, you'll relate to Rose's mistakes.

Leila Chandler says

In another review someone said that this is almost the exact same story as a novel Lane wrote, and that explains a lot. This is called "Her Story" but there is a lot in here that is fictional. It seems like it is just trying to capitalize on the success of the LHOTP series, although it is very different from that series. That being said, I enjoyed the book and found it interesting, even though Rose came off as being kind of dumb.

Melba says

I enjoyed reading about Laura Ingalls Wilder's daughter. I have always enjoyed the Little House books, and I enjoy reading about the real stories too.

Sue says

This book is written by Roger Lea MacBride, who inherited her estate and claims to be her adopted grandson. He says it's based on her letters and diaries but that's a very loose claim. Only a tiny portion ends up in this book and he plays fast and loose with the facts. It is so poorly written and overblown that Rose herself would never have written such a book. She wouldn't have had as much problem with the idea of historical fiction purporting to be biography as that's what her mother's books are, but she would have written a much better book. It's such an obvious attempt to cash in on Roger's ties to the TV series, especially the odd cover of 20th century Rose in front of 19th century Laura's wagon on the prairie. I love LIW and have read many, many books about her and her family. This one should have been skipped as it was a waste of time.

Wendy says

A strange book. It predicts the more recent explosion of Little House spinoffs, because the cover is clearly designed to fit in with one's 1970s collection of real Little House books, from the Garth Williams-esque (nonsensical and misleading) picture on the front down to the style and typeface on the spine. (The picture is of Rose in a hat, superimposed on a setting with log cabin and prairie etc, with a bonneted woman and a little girl, that could be taken from Little House on the Prairie. Not anything from this book.)

Supposedly it's based on Rose's letters and diaries. It covers only the years from when she left Mansfield for good until WW1--a very odd period to choose. There's no mention of anything about her life before she left Mansfield. Some of it is not factual--it has her going straight from Mansfield, with no telegraph experience, to Sacramento. Her parents are almost not mentioned at all; definitely no conflict or anything like that. The bulk of the book is about Rose selling real estate in the oil fields, or at least it feels that way. As you can imagine, these are not compelling events.

The book ends just when things start to get interesting.

Weird. Very weird.

Emily says

Sad, disappointing story :(

Lenora Carey says

A natural read after the Little House in The Prairie Books

Amy says

One of my favorite books. Rose Wilder-Lane was such a strong and amazing woman!

Katie Hilton says

This book purports to be a biography of Rose Wilder Lane, only child of Laura Ingalls Wilder, based on her papers and "written" by Rose and her "grandson," Roger Lea MacBride.

It is largely fiction. I should have realized the book would be low on dates and details when Roger wrote in the introduction, "Rose know that in telling a true story presicison of detail matters not."

Roger was not kin to Rose. In reading the book, I kept searching for the name and birthdate of Rose's child, who would have been Roger's parent. Instead, Roger was informally adopted by Rose later in life, and her became her attorney and heir. Whatever.

It is interesting to students of Laura Ingalls Wilder, but not informative, and in some cases the book definitely steers the reader away from truth.

Kelly says

Well, you can't change someone's life, but this biography left me feeling sad for Rose. Even though I know she had a wonderful career/life, I can't help but feel that she missed out on something. Interesting story about a prolific female American writer.

Jill says

I was curious how Rose's life turned out. What a shock! What a difference one generation can make! I've heard she was a great writer, perhaps I'll read a differnt book she wrote.
