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Rose Wilder Lane , Dan Andreasen (Illustrator)

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Newlyweds Molly and David are only sixteen and eighteen years old when they pack up their wagon and head west across the plains in search of a new homestead. At first their new life is full of promise: The wheat is high, the dugout is warm and cozy, and a new baby is born to share in their happiness. Then disaster strikes, and David must go east for the winter to find work. Molly is left alone with the baby -- with nothing but her own courage to face the dangers of the harsh prairie winter.

Young Pioneers Details

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From Reader Review Young Pioneers for online ebook

Ellie Sorota says

Rose Wilder Lane, Laura Ingalls' daughter, writes a compelling story about a young couple carving out a place to survive in the wild west. Young Pioneers, originally titled Let the Hurricane Roar, depicts what reviewers call "the grown up version of Laura Ingalls' tale." The largest difference between Rose's book and her mother's series is that we see settlement through adult eyes rather than a child's. Although the two main characters are young in years, David is eighteen and Molly a few years younger, they are old in experience. From the beginning of the book, the reader is transported to a different mentality, as Molly and David's parents give sacrificial wedding gifts: a whole ham, two maple cakes, a team of oxen, a quilt. Quickly the reader understands these gifts are both luxurious for such a young family to own, and necessary to survive the trip out west. Besides these meager possessions, David and Molly also receive a Bible, where they keep their marriage certificate. A surprising sentence is the seriousness of the "Birth and Death" page in the front of their Bible. While many Bibles today still come with such pages, Rose is quick to point out that though the page is blank, it will quickly be full and provide one of the only records of their existence. David and Molly journey west, settle in a sod shanty and face the trials and tribulations of the pioneer life. They meet both tragedy and salvation, despair and joy, all the while learning contentedness with what they have and peace with what they lose.

Laura says

Young Pioneers is the tale of a brave young couple, Molly and David, who travel west to find a homestead of their home after their marriage. They are only 18 and 16 years old at the time. Molly in particular is a brave young woman who not only gives birth on the prairie with only her husband in attendance, but also manages to live alone and keep the homestead when David has to get work out east after a grasshopper plague. "In the daylight she saw the devastated country more clearly. There was nothing but bare earth to the rim of the sky." I was amazed by her pluck and determination against all odds.

Lane gives great characterization and setting. You feel through Molly's eyes what it would be like to be alone on the prairie and the courage required by pioneers. I loved this description:

"This was a cloud ineffably beautiful, soft as moonbeams, iridescent as mother of pearl. It covered the sun, and the sun shone through it gently with kindness."

Lane also talks a lot about the gumption of the pioneers. The pioneers who made it were tough and had that gumption, those that didn't make it, lacked it.

"Suddenly she was happy, because she understood why he hadn't come to her for comfort. It was his pride-his pride in taking care of her and the baby. She would love him just as much if he couldn't take care of her. But she wouldn't love him at all without the pride; he wouldn't be David without it."

This was about a neighbor of Molly and David:

"It was not only this quarter section of land that Mr. Svenson was giving up; it was a year of his life, a year's work and hope. Molly doubted that Mr. Svenson would ever be more than a hired man."

Rose Wilder Lane was a famous author before her mother, Laura Ingalls Wilder. She greatly helped her mother with her works, but also took the material to write her own stories including this novel. It had many elements similar to *On the Banks of Plum Creek* and *The Long Winter*.

I wonder how Rose Wilder Lane would feel now that her books are marketed as "by Rose Wilder Lane, The Daughter of Laura Ingalls Wilder." I know the two had an at times contentious relationship. Fame is fickle; it's hard to believe that the once famous writer, Rose Wilder Lane, is now only remembered for her association with her mother. Personally I think this is because Laura Ingalls Wilder's stories were written from the heart and of her own experiences, while Rose Wilder Lane's books that I've read are mining the same material without the personal touch. The name of this novel was also changed from the original "Let the Hurricane Roar" to *Young Pioneers* probably to market to the Laura Ingalls Wilder crowd.

Young Pioneers was a bit scattered at the beginning and not as detailed as I would have like to really set up the story. It got much better with more description as the book went on until it got to the point that I was enthralled by the story and read through it quickly to see how it ended. Overall, it is a good story for those interested in history, especially of the pioneer era. It is also an interesting book for *Little House* fans to read as well.

Can you see yourself able to live alone on the prairie with only an infant through a winter of blizzards?

Book Source: I purchased this novel at the Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum in Walnut Grove Minnesota. Stay tuned for a blog post about my journey!

This review was originally posted on my blog at: <http://lauragerold.blogspot.com/2016/...>

Chelsea says

3.5 STARS

I've always been a big fan of the "Little House on the Prairie" series, so I was familiar with Rose Wilder Lane, but I had never read any of her books. I was pleased as punch when I came across not one, but two of her books at a Friends of the Library book sale. One was "Let the Hurricane Roar" and the other was "Young Pioneers." You can imagine my surprise when I figured out these were the same book. The only change was that the publishers had decided to change the characters names from Charles and Caroline to Molly and David.

As I was reading this tale of hardship and perseverance, I kept thinking how familiar it seemed to me. It took me a little while to figure out, but my husband had bought a DVD of eight adventure movies that contained the movie adaptation of this book called "Young Pioneers." We watched it a couple years ago before I knew anything about "Let the Hurricane Roar," which is why I couldn't shake the feeling of *deja vu* regarding this book.

"Caroline's parents gave her two blankets, two wild-goose-feather pillows, and cooking pot and pan and skillet. They gave her a ham, a cheese, two molds of maple sugar, and Tennyson's Poems beautifully bound in green and gilt, with steel engravings. She had the patchwork quilts she had pieced. Charles had his fiddle and his gun. Their families together sent East for their Bible, and the circuit rider wrote their marriage certificate on the page provided for it. The pages for Births and

Deaths were still blank, waiting to be written upon. So, well provided for, they set out to the West."

It's hard to believe most pioneer families began new lives out West with such few possessions!

We are having hard times now, but we should not dwell upon them but think of the future. It has never been easy to build up a country, but how much easier it is for us, with such great comforts and conveniences, kerosene, cookstoves, and even railroads and fast posts, than it was for our forefathers. I trust that, like our own parents, we may live to see times more prosperous than they have ever been in the past, and we will then reflect with satisfaction that these hard times were not in vain."

Overall, an enjoyable read about life on the prairie and the grit needed to survive during times of adversity.

Susan says

I have always loved the "Little House" books by Laura Ingalls Wilder and when I heard about this book, I wanted to read it. David and Molly in the story were modeled after Rose's grandparents, Charles and Caroline Ingalls. While the book is geared towards young folks, I did enjoy it quite a bit. While the "Little House" books are geared towards a younger set, "Young Pioneers" makes a nice addition to your bookshelves for your older children. I think the "Young Pioneers" is a bit more realistic when it comes to the hardships and dangers that the Pioneers faced, while the "Little House" books sugar coated them a bit because those books were more geared towards younger children. Also, Rose's writing style is different from those that her Mother penned. It's a bit more stark and not as descriptive.

If you've read the "Little House" books by Laura Ingalls Wilder, you will recognize that many of the settings and events in "Young Pioneers" are from Laura's book, "On the Banks of Plum Creek". For instance, David and Molly live in a dugout on the banks of Wild Plum Creek. They also lose their wheat crop through a swarm of grasshoppers. But, you also get a glance at what "Ma" and "Pa" were possibly like before Laura was born. The story starts with David and Molly's wedding. David is 18 and Molly is 16 when they set off on their adventure. From the "Little House" books, I never pictured them being that young. Granted, I know that this is a fictionalized account of Charles and Caroline's early years, but this fact was probably pretty accurate. After reading the book, think about this...how many 16-18 year olds do you know that could survive life as a pioneer in today's age? I enjoyed the book quite a lot, but I did feel that the ending was a bit abrupt. I would have like to have had it go on a bit longer to have it feel a bit more complete. I don't think it has the same magic as the "Little House" books, but it was well written and enjoyable.

This book is appropriate for I'd think 6th grade and up. Nothing too violent, just the stark reality of life as a pioneer. Also, there is a mild curse word that is used once when David is upset toward the middle-end of the book.

Majenta says

Basically the same story as YOUNG PIONEERS, except the YOUNG PIONEERS are David and Molly and the HURRICANE is LET ROAR around...Caroline and Charles? Why, wherever did those names come from? :) Well, if you have the chance to read them both, go on ahead, and I hope you enjoy them!

Michele says

Couldn't put it down. I found the writing sharp and the story engrossing.

Thinking of doing a Pioneer theme for my summer book group. This would be a good choice for one of the books.

Need 2 more.

Elizabeth says

Fans of little house would like this short novel.

Brenda says

This book, written by the daughter of Laura Ingalls Wilder is along the same lines as the "Little House" books. It is an enjoyable, quick read detailing the struggles of a young couple setting out into the frontier. The characters names are Charles and Caroline, and with their characterizations, seemed that it could have been about the author's grandparents, Pa and Ma in "Little House," except that the plot of the story didn't seem to match up with the early books of that series.

Other than wondering if any of it was based on fact, because I like to know, I enjoyed the story about their lives in a dugout, surviving a winter alone on the prairies, and the fierce pride and love for each other that kept them going.

Apparently newer editions are published under a different title with new character names. This probably alleviates some confusion, but I think the original title is very fitting.

My favorite quote from the book, when Caroline first peeked outside after a blizzard: "Air and sun and snow were the whole visible world--a world neither alive nor dead, and terrible because it was alien to life and death, and ignorant of them.

In that instant she know the infinite smallness, weakness, of life in the lifeless universe. She felt the vast, insensate forces against which life itself is a rebellion. Infinitely small and weak was the spark of warmth in a living heart. Yet valiantly the tiny heart continues to beat. Tired, weak, burdened by its own fears and sorrows, still it persisted, indomitably it continues to exist, and in bare existence itself, without assurance of victory, even without hope, in its indomitable existence among vast, incalculable, lifeless forces, it was invincible.

Caroline was never able to say, even in her own thoughts, what she knew when she first came out of the dugout after the October blizzard. It was a moment of inexpressible terror, courage and pride. She was aware of human dignity. She felt that she was alive, and that God was with life."

Mimi says

Recommended, but not required, for an online Laura Ingalls Wilder class I am currently taking.

Interesting contrast with Wilder's writing, as Rose took a lot of her mom's memories and put it together into a fiction before hers were published. It was interesting to run across familiar episodes, but it was also instructive at how much better Laura's voice and characterizations were.

Cynthia Hill says

You have to feel sorry for Rose Wilder Lane: at one point, SHE was the famous author in the family. In her lifetime, she wrote over 20 books, and countless magazine and newspaper articles. She wrote biographies of Henry Ford, Herbert Hoover, and Charlie Chaplin. She is considered one of the founders of the Libertarian movement.

Now? She's mainly relegated to being "the daughter of Laura Ingalls Wilder." She's a footnote in the sad chapter of "The First Four Years."

My daughter and I have been reading a series of books...

Read my full review here: <http://cynthiahillbooks.com/2013/10/1...>

Aimee M. says

I thought this book was okay. I know that I would not be able to be by myself with my child/children all alone for a whole season, especially back in those days. What strong and courageous women they were to have to endure all that they had to go through.

Cheryl says

I was very disappointed in this book. I am taking a class on Laura Ingalls Wilder, where part of our discussion is how much influence did Rose have on Laura's Little House books. I don't see how anyone can even compare their writing styles. I understand Rose used Laura's Pioneer Girl biography as source material for this story, which Laura also used for portions of her Little House novels. A number of scenes are clearly recognizable, for example, the grasshoppers and trying to save the wheat. Similarities end there, however. Lane's writing style is so stark, stripped of emotion, almost journalistic, in a way. Wilder's writing style is the complete opposite: warm, vibrant, emotional, full of an abundance of details. It took a lot of effort for me to continue Young Pioneers. Sooooo boring!

Colette says

Why was Rose Wilder Lane largely forgotten as a writer while her mother reigns eternal in the annals of American literature?

While she had an eye for story exposition and structure, she lacked her mother's lyrical ability and poetic

way of describing the world around her. Rose writes her family's history in a short little novel that sold well at the time it was published but has since faded into obscurity.

Laura wrote the same story, but the way in which she told it seared its memory into the souls of the American experience. Rose's attempt falls flat at the wayside.

Jessica says

A good book for those who loved the Little House series by Rose's mom Laura Ingalls Wilder. I'm a bit annoyed by the reviewers who didn't take the time to figure out that Rose's book pre-dates Laura's and any quick Google search will show that the Little House books only came about at Rose's urging and assistance. It is a quick, sweet story and does not hinge on knowing anything about Little House. The ending is a bit abrupt and the reader hopes there will be more. Good for all ages.

Jane says

Rose Wilder Lane is Laura Ingalls Wilder's daughter and this novel was written in 1933.

A quick read, only 152 pages, this is impossible to put down. It details what was involved in traveling west, living in a dugout, attempting to communicate with neighbors who spoke only Swedish, giving birth with only the help of a neighbor, and the heartbreak of losing crops to devastating swarms of grasshoppers. The novel was based on the history of Rose W. Lane's grandparents' homesteading adventures.
