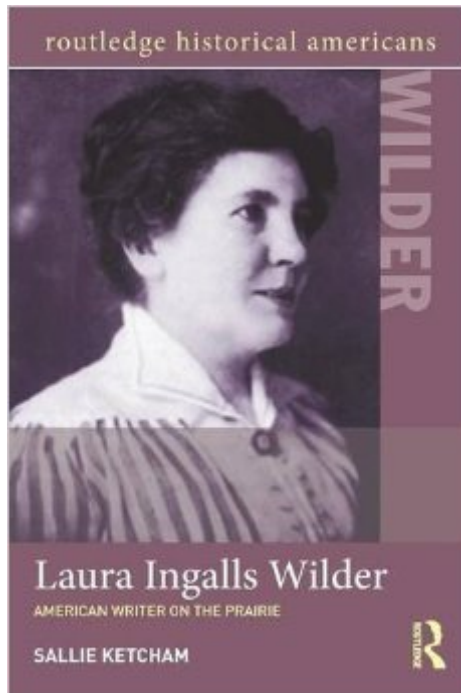


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Laura Ingalls Wilder: American Writer On The Prairie (Routledge Historical Americans)



Synopsis

Laura Ingalls Wilder wrote stories that have defined the American frontier for generations of readers. As both author and character in her own books, she became one of the most famous figures in American children's literature. Her famous Little House on the Prairie series, based on her childhood in Wisconsin, Kansas, Minnesota, and South Dakota, blended memoir and fiction into a vivid depiction of nineteenth-century settler life that continues to shape many Americans' understanding of the country's past. Poised between fiction and fact, literature and history, Wilder's life is a fascinating window on the American West. Placing Wilder's life and work in historical context, and including previously unpublished material from the Wilder archives, Sallie Ketcham introduces students to domestic frontier life, the conflict between Native Americans and infringing white populations, and the West in public memory and imagination.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am a huge Laura Ingalls Wilder fan and I have all the books written about her. This was a very informative and interesting book about her life. I also have "Pioneer Girl" the annotated autobiography, which is fantastic also. I would say this book by Sally Ketcham is a great addition for every Laura Ingalls Wilder fan! A great read!

I received a copy of this book at no cost to me to facilitate my review. If you're a lifelong fan like I

am, or if you are planning to teach Wilder's books, you really need to read this biography. If you are not a fan, I can honestly tell you that anyone interested in the American west will enjoy this incredibly thorough book about Wilder's life. She lived during a formative period in our history, and the biography is engaging and well written enough to stand on its own or to serve as an introduction to Wilder's fiction. Ketcham excels at clarifying things for a modern understanding. Both in the way the Ingalls family lived and on the subject of the contemporary treatment of US policies and actions regarding Native Americans. Deconstructing the novels as she goes, Ketcham creates the perfect counterpoint for anyone who wants to teach these books while addressing those concerns.

(Homeschoolers, take note!) This biography is a true treasure, and never less so than in the hearty and fulfilling treatment of the later years of Wilder's life. After the books leave "Laura" at age 20, the modern reader is left to wonder "what came next." Web searches have turned up only tidbits that further whet my appetite to know more about her amazing later life. Ketcham's biography at last fills in the rest of the story. As a little girl, I felt like I knew the "Laura" of schoolgirl days and wanted her for a friend. As a woman and a mom, I feel now, through Ketcham's work, that I know the mother and the remarkable human being she later became.

Ketcham's biography of Wilder is a refreshing contribution to a high density subject. Her writing is straight forward and candid. I enjoyed perusing the bibliography and discovering new material to explore.

I loved getting to know the real Laura behind my favorite childhood book series. Sallie's insight into Laura makes her so real, giving me a whole new appreciation behind the strong women who helped shape the midwest or the Dakota's into what they are today. Thanks Sallie for sharing Laura's voice and passion for living life on the prairie.

I have always been a huge fan of Laura Ingalls Wilder and this is the quintessential insider's story of her life. Well-written and engaging - this is a true page-turner that is also scholarly and impeccably researched. Highly recommended!

Sallie Ketcham provides a well researched depiction of Laura Ingalls Wilder. It is a solid read, a must for those who have loved the Little House on the Prairie books. Be advised however, her real life story is not as idyllic as her children's books may have portrayed.

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