



Across the Puddingstone Dam

Melissa Wiley , Dan Andreasen (Illustrator)

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Boston's Little House Girl Meet Charlotte Tucker, the little girl who would grow up to be Laura Ingalls Wilder's grandmother.

Eleven-year-old Charlotte can't imagine living anywhere but Tide Mill Lane. She is delighted when a school for young ladies opens nearby. The prospect of a new baby brother and the reappearance of a long-lost relative combine to complete Charlotte's world. But a new dam connecting Roxbury and Boston turns Tide Mill Lane into a noisy, messy construction site, and Charlotte's parents worry about what this will mean for their family.

Across the Puddingstone Dam is the fourth book in The Charlotte Years, an ongoing series about another spirited girl from America's most beloved pioneer family.

Across the Puddingstone Dam Details

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Author : Melissa Wiley , Dan Andreasen (Illustrator)

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Cece says

I wish there was another book after this one to tie up the loose ends in this series. This book takes place 6 yrs after the first book in the series, so the children's ages are as follows: Lewis (18), Lydia (15), Tom (13), Charlotte (11), Mary (6 almost 7), Baby boy expected in June. William (3.5), and Anna (1) are Will and Lucy's children. A good read, but I would have preferred if Charlotte was a bit older before the series ended.

Galina Krasskova says

my god daughter loves this series. :)

Donna Mcguire says

This has been a great attention keeper. Melissa Wiley has captured and kept my attention from the first sentence with the emotional detail she asked put into writing this story. I have even shed a few tears as I felt that I was living the story. This book shows the love between siblings. Everyone would enjoy this story.

Ashley Perham says

Does this book deserve 5 stars? Probably not. It was a good book and had great parts, but most of the story did not stand out much. BUT there were two parts that made this book for me. They both almost made me cry, but for different reasons. The first was because I was so happy, the second was because I felt so sad. Because of spoilers, I'm not going to go into detail, but let's just say I'm still feeling the effects of those parts! Also, the cover for the third book should have been the cover of this book, I'm just saying. Also, people named Mack are awesome!

If you know the happy part I'm talking about, then please comment so we can be happy together!

Julie says

My 5 year old daughter and I accidentally saw a mention of George's death when we were checking to see how long the next few chapters were at our bedtime reading. My son, her baby brother, is 9 months old and so whenever Charlotte talked about George my daughter would rave about how that was just how she felt about her brother and related so strongly. So when we found out that George would be dying in a few chapters she was literally SICK about it for a few days. I couldn't bring myself to read it, either. Which, really, is a compliment to Ms. Wiley's writing because we were just so besotted with this family and baby George that we couldn't bear it. We finally buckled down and read it and it ended up being handled very

well. It was very sad and emotional and we both cried, but it wasn't overly dramatic or heavy handed. We could both relate to Charlotte's reaction considering that's more or less how we had just handled it ourselves for the last few days!

Rosa Cline says

This was the fourth and last book in the Charlotte years Little House series. And the eight book in the Little House set of books. The Charlotte years books were just as good as the Martha years both were a delight to read! This book was just as good I felt as the other three in the Charlotte years but probably not my favorite of the series. It didn't have as much 'history' in them as the other books but it still was a very good, easy read. I will be rereading them again! Will always be some of my favorite books!

Paul Lunger says

The finale to the Charlotte Years series, Melissa Wiley's "Across the Puddingstone Dam" is perhaps the best of the series as we wrap up the tale in 1819 with a lot of changes in the Tucker household. Charlotte goes off to an exclusive school for girls, a new family members is added & lost, & a dam is completed causing the home on Tide Mill Lane to become something more than what it was. The story is as quick moving & interesting as the others & we have a chance encounter with a relative of Lewis Tucker (the father) along with secrets revealed that tell truly of life in the America in the early 19th century. Overall this is not the best of conclusions to the series, but it works enough to make the reader wish there were more tales.

Kristen Luppino says

Very well rendered. Makes you feel. I wish there were more in this series.

Sanya Weathers says

Yes, I'm on a kid lit binge, shut it. My actual kid is getting the hang of reading and is starting to climb onto my lap to "read along," and let me tell you, the later Heinleins are not AT ALL the kind of thing I feel like explaining.

Also, there is some uh-maze-ing kid lit.

Like this one. You want a picture of 1820, with its joys and sorrows, read this. Unlike some, if not most, of the spinoff books, this one is excellent even if you don't know or care about the future significance of the characters.

Kasey says

This book was one of my favorites in the Charlotte years, that said it was also one of the saddest. This book showed just how hard it was living in the time of Laura's grandmother. I would greatly encourage Little House fans to read the whole little house series beginning with Laura's great grandmother, Martha, and ending with Laura's daughter, Rose. It was so much fun reading about the different times these women lived in. Rated three stars because it is way below my reading level so it is a entertaining fast read.

Emily says

I liked this story a lot. It went fast. There was a particularly sad part I wish was omitted lol but the ending brought the series together nicely. I wish there were more charlotte books, I enjoyed this series.

Lindsay says

Not my favourite one in the series by Melissa Wiley. It was a bit slow at times and I was left wanting more after I finished it. Really enjoyed getting to glimpse back at the family history though.

Katie says

What a disappointing ending to *this* series!

It had such a promising start, I thought. I liked it better than the Martha series right off the bat (I am reading/re-reading the Little House books this year; see my Beyond the Heather Hills comment). I suppose that had something to do with a combination of things. For one thing it takes place in America now. Also, the first two were during the War of 1812. While there aren't many things specifcally mentioned regarding the war (more just the way some things in their lives are altered/different because of the war), it did make the first two books much more interesting than all 4 of the Martha books. The third one (The Road from Roxbury) was OK. But this last one was just not good at all. It was tolerable enough to give it more than just one star but not beyond that. I would like to say what it was that pushed me over the edge of dissatisfaction with this book, but I guess it would be somewhat of a spoiler alert situation. And I am not one to write those. I will just say it involves the moment Charlotte and her mother (Martha) are alone together after something dramatic happens. I just thought that was a little too much.

All-in-all, despite the low rating of this one, I would give this series 3 stars.

Abra says

My favorite of the Charlotte years stories.

Rea K says

Well. It's over. Now, being that I know a load of what Mrs. Wiley wrote was fiction, I want to know what wasn't fiction. Still waiting for my time machine. Doctor, I'm waiting. Still waiting.

We didn't meet Henry Quiner at all. We learn more about Martha's past, but I would have liked to hear more. However, I guess it makes sense that we don't hear everything. I mean, how many of us know all of our parent's stories? I guess Martha didn't want to tell her children everything about her past. I still want to know how Martha ended up married to Lewis Tucker. I mean, you've fictionalized everything else about her life, you can handle making up a story about that.

Ready for the Caroline series, I guess. I only wish there was more of Charlotte's years, too. I guess there's only so much that Melissa Wiley was able to fictionalize.

My little brother was peeking at one of these books and says "I thought they were all written by the person they were about!" I wish. That would have made them rock. I guess you can't blame them for not writing their own stories. How were they supposed to know that Laura was going to be born and write about her life and have scads of people fall in love with her and want to know about Martha and Charlotte and Caroline, too? Ah! Okay. from the Charlotte series, I'd only read the first one. I'm thinking that by the time these ones were published, I had almost outgrown them. I was definitely reading other things by 2004. Of course, it's possible that I wasn't as interested in the rest of the stories or they weren't on the bookmobile when I was reading these.

Right. Well. Onto the next series when it shows up at the library. There are seven in that series and my silly library has three of them (1, 2, and 6). *huffs* Luckily I was able to place holds before some turd checked the first two out on me. Different author. Will she pull off the same magic? dundundun.... We'll have to see.
