



Little House in the Highlands

Melissa Wiley, Renée Graef (Illustrator), Dan Andreasen (Illustrator)

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Meet Martha the little girl who would grow up to be Laura Ingalls Wilder's great-grandmother. It's 1788, and six year old Martha lives in a little stone house in Glencraig, Scotland. Martha's father is Laird Glencraig, and the life of the Laird's daughter is not always easy for a lively girl like Martha. She would rather be running barefoot through the fields of heather and listening to magical tales of fairies and other Wee Folk than learning to sew like a proper young lady. But between her dreaded sewing lessons, Martha still finds time to play on the rolling Scottish hills.

Little House in the Highlands Details

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Author : Melissa Wiley , Renée Graef (Illustrator) , Dan Andreasen (Illustrator)

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Download and Read Free Online Little House in the Highlands Melissa Wiley , Renée Graef (Illustrator) , Dan Andreasen (Illustrator)

From Reader Review Little House in the Highlands for online ebook

Jennifer says

Series was never finished. Sigh.

Jaime K says

This is a very fictionalized story of Laura Ingalls Wilder's great-grandmother Martha Morse. She's the daughter of a Laird (which is true) in Glencaird, on Loch Caraid (neither of which is a real place).

Her four siblings are all older than her. Thus, being the youngest and only 6 years old, it makes sense that she's confused when it comes to pregnancy talk!

This book takes place in 1788, so America is nearly as old as Martha. I do think it's odd that they call it America. Not the United States of America?

I'm not a history person, so I could be wrong, but I think the book should have included the entire name.

I like the simplicity of the times. Martha's father is a Laird who won't even add more rooms to their stone house (something Martha thinks is above and beyond, even knowing stories of other Lairds) until it's necessary. He is kind to the cottagers who live on his land; when there is a new bairn, the females in his family go to visit them. Martha and her siblings play with their children.

The Gaelic language makes me smile.

I find it strange that they call the cook Cook.

I have to chuckle at how superstitious they all are, even the adults. They believe fairies may take away beautiful babies (a fear I understand), that Brownies live in homes and can turn into boggarts (which I also get), but believing a baby who holds onto a coin will grow up to be a miser makes me roll my eyes.

They're probably misers because everyone told them they would be as they grew up. Yeesh.

I completely understand why they wouldn't bring the baby out of the home immediately, or even say the name aloud before the christening. The latter is even seen with Saint John the Baptist in the Bible (coincidentally, it's the Solemnity of the Nativity of him on the day I've begun the book).

That there may be changelings made me laugh.

I love that Lairds had their own personal piper. The thought of bagpipes sweeping over the shepherd lands makes me feel peaceful.

And I feel gay (that's the best word I could come up with: gaiety) reading of the traditions surrounding a baby's christening. It's just beautiful.

Brownie Pete makes me laugh.

I like that the tenants' daughters were allowed to be in school during the summer with the boys. I wonder if that was truly the case in the 1780s.

According to Melissa Wiley, Martha married "beneath her station." (<http://melissawiley.com/faq/>). So it makes sense that she's a bit rebellious and much like Laura in that she tends more towards "boyish" things and hates to sew. Still, sometimes the parallels are sometimes tiring.

The mention of Culloder and Rising of 1745 was like clickbait for me. I'm not a history person at all, but all the Little House books have me wanting more. I relearned some things and fully learned of others. For example, I don't think I ever knew that the clan system and tartan had been banned for almost 40 years in the 1700s.

It was the Martha books that made me think I would enjoy series like "Highlander" [meh] and Scottish things overall [another meh].

Laird Alroch absolutely wins.

Every time I read this (this is my third or fourth time), I want a spindle. Even though I'm not inclined to sewing or knitting, I'd love to learn!

Anabella Dente says

I think that it is a good book for children 9 and up. I enjoyed it very much. I would recommend this book.

Jennifer says

This version is a dumbed-down version of the original. Great for encouraging younger readers who don't have the vocabulary for the full version. Our family loved the folklore and recipe added to this version.

Kristen Luppino says

One of the best first books in the series sets. And it's set in Scotland adding a new twist. Super fun!

Rebecca says

I was a little skeptical about this imagining of Laura Ingalls Wilder's great-grandmother's Scottish childhood, but it turned out to be quite lovely. I have no idea how much of it is based on fact, other than the character names, location, social position, but if it's just "this is the way her life might have been," that works as well. The author put in a lot about daily life in 18th century Scotland, including not just how to spin, but beliefs about fairies and brownies, and recounts of tales and songs. Her descriptions of the countryside are simple but lyrical, and don't make the mistake of seeming nostalgic; this is a little girl reporting her life at the moment, not as she remembers it when she's an adult. (For example, although I love Richard Peck, I think his books often fall into that trap.) The only thing I would have changed about this book would be to add some kind of main story arc to all the episodes, just to make it more cohesive, although since the original Little House books didn't completely have that I suppose I shouldn't complain!

Kate D says

I had no idea that the "Little House" books by Laura Ingalls Wilder expended at much as it does. I love reading about other countries so this book was really cool. I'm definitely going to look into more of these books.

Lydia Dyslin says

This book is completely adorable. From the time I set eyes on it, I knew I was going to love it! The whole Martha series is amazing, but this book is the best one in the series. I've read and re-read this book over and over again, it's so cute and feel-sy good-y, and so easy to read too!

I think I actually might like this series better than the Laura series (but by only a little, mind you.) Martha is so love-able, and all her family. The Stone House sounds exactly like somewhere I would want to live, with the high bed and cosy kitchen, and right next to a big lake.

The stories that are told about faeries and brownies are so much fun to read, I've actually used them to entertain my little sister when we were waiting for something and she was getting restless.

So yes, I totally recommend this book. It's simply charming.

Sheetal Dash says

You don't have to be a young girl to enjoy the Little House books. I started as a young boy with Little House in the Big Woods, and have hungerly picked up every book as they became available (Okay, the Laura years were all written before I was born - I am talking about Rose, Charlotte, Caroline and Rose). Now in my 30s, rereading them is like visiting old friends.

As far as continuing series, I love going from Caroline into Laura into Rose, because its like the story just continues. I am sad, though, to hear that there won't be any more Charlotte or Martha years books. Martha is probably the most fascinating of all the girls to me, mainly because they take place in Scotland. The author paints the characters with care and loving, until you feel like you are part of the characters lives.

I hope that HarperCollins rethinks their decision to abridge the books, and offers them again in their original forms, and that the author comes back and finishes the story. Its quite jaring to read about Martha becoming a preteen, and this carefree spirit, then suddenly you start reading Charlotte, and Martha is this strict mother, living in the US. There is just a hole in the story.

Stephanie Snyder says

One of our family's favorites.
A classic.
A great choice for every child's bookshelf.

Wild Wild says

it was very interesting

Suzanna says

Read aloud to Leigh. Good sibling ending.

Story_Girl says

What a sweet idea! Books that give a glimpse of what life might have been like for Laura Ingalls Wilder's great grandmother Martha, growing up in a Laird's household in Scotland. And very well done. Short, sweet story with realistic elements and a warm, family feel to it.

Kirsten says

Furthering my complete education on the Laura Ingalls Wilder oeuvre. Is this great literature? No. But it's fun and the local Scottish color is interesting.

Tabitha Rocha says

It's a lovely story, but why must the new version be abridged?!! I want to read the whole book now.

Heather says

This companion series to the Laura Ingalls Wilder Little House series is perfect for young girls or those who are still young at heart. The Marta Years is a four book series covering the young years of Martha Morse, Laura's great grandmother, in her home in Scotland. I would style this as an introduction into the series. We really get to meet Martha, her family, and are introduced to the way of life in Scotland in the 1770's.

Martha is a spirited young girl. She would rather play outside with the boys and get dirty than stay inside

practicing sewing, embroidering etc. She wants to go to school and grow up faster so that she can be like her 15 year old sister. Martha's character is something that many young children, especially today, can relate to at least to some extent. I loved seeing the world from her point of view.

Wiley also does a fantastic job of interweaving the culture and customs of the Scots into this YA novel. We learn about tales children were told, hear mythology about fairies, brownies and magic. The book leads up to the big celebration of Hogmanay and we get involved in all of the details from how food is prepared to the games and gifts given. The language used when the characters speak to each other evokes the feel of Scottish while still being words that a young reader would be able to grasp and understand. She also includes traditional Scottish terms, for example, haggis, and is always careful to explain these terms.

For a young reader this book has just enough excitement and adventure to keep them entertained while still teaching them about the Scottish culture and building up to the traditional Little House series. For an adult reader the pages will fly by and you will be done before you know it – but it is still quite an enjoyable read!

Sydney says

My children and I have enjoyed reading this series. Of course, it isn't written by Laura Ingalls Wilder, but the book does catch much of her spirit.

Sadie says

I have never read any of the little house series and thought it would be good to start with Laura's great-grandmother. I was expecting a simplistic story given the age this series is for, but I didn't expect to like it as much as I did. I would give this book 3 1/2 stars. I loved learning about the scottish culture during the 18th century and Martha's story, simplistic as it was, held my attention. I do plan on reading the entire series and hope all of them will be as satisfying as this one has been.

Mare says

My girls loved this story!

Kelly says

Meet Martha the little girl who would grow up to be Laura Ingalls Wilder's great-grandmother. It's 1788, and six year old Martha lives in a little stone house in Glencraig, Scotland. Martha's father is Laird Glencraig, and the life of the Laird's daughter is not always easy for a lively girl like Martha. She would rather be running barefoot through the fields of heather and listening to magical tales of fairies and other Wee Folk than learning to sew like a proper young lady. But between her dreaded sewing lessons, Martha still finds time to play on the rolling Scottish hills.

I recommend this book to all ages.

My son and I finished reading this tonight. We both loved this book especially when I slipped into a Scottish

accent. The historic and culture aspect of this book always amazes me no matter how many times I read it. I grew up on all the little house books so I am enjoying starting at the beginning of Laura's family tree with my son. I don't know how accurate the stories are but I love how similar Martha is to Laura they both remind so much of me as a child.

I really enjoyed this book. Martha and her family are so adorable and comfy feeling. I love all the stories her parents tell. It was such an enjoyable read.

I rate this book 5 out of 5 stars.
