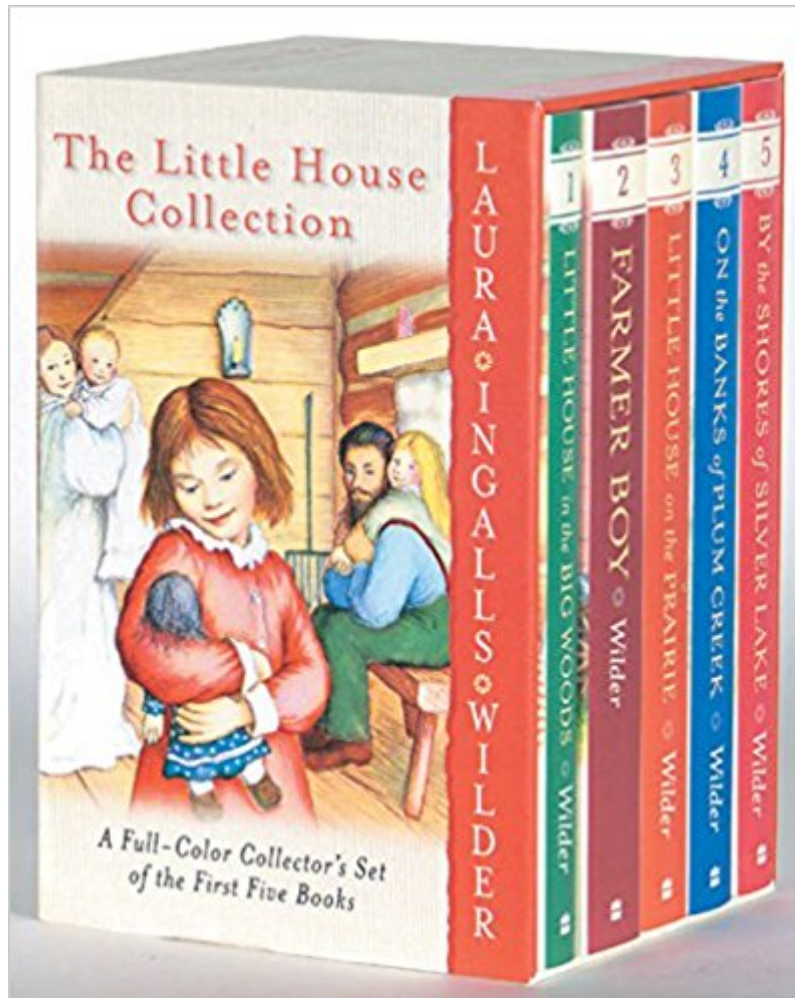


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# The Little House (5 Volume Set)



## Synopsis

This five-book paperback box set of the classic series features Garth Williams' illustrations in gorgeous full color. The five books in the timeless Little House series tell the story of Laura's real childhood as an American pioneer, and are cherished by readers of all generations. They offer a unique glimpse into life on the American frontier, and tell the heartwarming, unforgettable story of a loving family.

**Little House in the Big Woods** Meet the Ingalls family—Laura, Ma, Pa, Mary, and baby Carrie, who all live in a cozy log cabin in the big woods of Wisconsin in the 1870s. Though many of their neighbors are wolves and panthers and bears, the woods feel like home, thanks to Ma's homemade cheese and butter and the joyful sounds of Pa's fiddle.

**Farmer Boy** As Laura Ingalls is growing up in a little house in Kansas, Almanzo Wilder lives on a big farm in New York. He and his brothers and sisters work hard from dawn to supper to help keep their family farm running. Almanzo wishes for just one thing—his very own horse—but he must prove that he is ready for such a big responsibility.

**Little House on the Prairie** When Pa decides to sell the log house in the woods, the family packs up and moves from Wisconsin to Kansas, where Pa builds them their little house on the prairie! Living on the farm is different from living in the woods, but Laura and her family are kept busy and are happy with the promise of their new life on the prairie.

**On the Banks of Plum Creek** The Ingalls family lives in a sod house beside Plum Creek in Minnesota until Pa builds them a new house made of sawed lumber. The money for the lumber will come from their first wheat crop. But then, just before the wheat is ready to harvest, a strange glittering cloud fills the sky, blocking out the sun. Millions of grasshoppers cover the field and everything on the farm, and by the end of a week, there is no wheat crop left.

**By the Shores of Silver Lake** Pa Ingalls heads west to the unsettled wilderness of the Dakota Territory. When Ma, Mary, Laura, Carrie, and baby Grace join him, they become the first settlers in the town of De Smet. Pa starts work on the first building of the brand new town, located on the shores of Silver Lake.

**The Long Winter** The first terrible storm comes to the barren prairie in October. Then it snows almost without stopping until April. With snow piled as high as the rooftops, it's impossible for trains to deliver supplies, and the townspeople, including Laura and her family, are starving. Young Almanzo Wilder, who has settled in the town, risks his life to save the town.

**Little Town on the Prairie** De Smet is rejuvenated with the beginning of spring. But in addition to the parties, socials, and literaries, work must continue. Laura spends many hours sewing shirts to help Ma and Pa get enough money to send Mary to a college for the blind. But in the evenings, Laura makes time for a new caller, Almanzo Wilder.

**These Happy Golden Years** Laura must continue to earn money to keep Mary in her college for the blind, so she gets a job as a teacher. It's not easy, and for the first time she's living

away from home.Â But it gets a little better every Friday, when Almanzo picks Laura up to take her back home for the weekend.Â Though Laura is still young, she and Almanzo are officially courting, and she knows that this is a time for new beginnings. The First Four Years Laura Ingalls and Almanzo Wilder have just been married! They move to a small prairie homestead to start their lives together.Â But each year brings new challengesâ ”storms, sickness, fire, and unpaid debts.Â These first four years call for courage, strength, and a great deal of determination. And through it all, Laura and Almanzo still have their love, which only grows when baby Rose arrives.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Set during the pioneer days of the late 1800s and early 1900s, Laura Ingalls Wilder's books chronicle her life growing up on the Western frontier. For the first time in the history of the Little House books, these new editions feature Garth Williams' interior art in vibrant, full color. Come along for the adventure with this collector's set of the first five Little House books.

Laura Ingalls Wilder (1867â “1957) was born in a log cabin in the Wisconsin woods. With her family, she pioneered throughout Americaâ™s heartland during the 1870s and 1880s, finally settling in Dakota Territory. She married Almanzo Wilder in 1885; their only daughter, Rose, was born the following year. The Wilders moved to Rocky Ridge Farm at Mansfield, Missouri, in 1894, where they established a permanent home. After years of farming, Laura wrote the first of her beloved Little

House books in 1932. The nine Little House books are international classics. Her writings live on into the twenty-first century as America's quintessential pioneer story. Garth Williams's classic illustrations for the Little House books caused Laura to remark that she "and her folks live again in these pictures." Garth Williams also illustrated Charlotte's Web, Stuart Little, and almost one hundred other books.

Not my most favorite of her books, it seems to be lacking the feel of the author that is shown in the others in the series. However, if you are reading the series, you can't skip this one!

While on a road trip with my mother, sister, and niece to various Ingalls' family sites in the midwest, we listened to most of the Little House books on CD. We loved them. We thought my niece might balk a bit at not listening to music, but we were all drawn in to the stories and the books provided hours of entertainment. Cherry Jones is an excellent narrator and does a pitch perfect job. I wish these were available via Audible, too, so I didn't have to deal with the physical media.

This is the fifth of nine books in the "Little House" historical fiction series by Laura Ingalls Wilder. The book starts with the news, in the first chapter, that Laura's older sister Mary has gone blind. The information is related matter-of-factly, "Her blue eyes were still beautiful, but they did not know what was before them, and Mary herself could never look through them again to tell Laura what she was thinking without saying a word." (p. 2) Laura has to become Mary's eyes and see for her, describing in detail what she is seeing so that Mary, too, can "see." The perceptive reader understands how central this experience, this role, was in shaping the future author of this series of books which are enduring across generations of readers, young and old. Much later in the book, in the chapter, "On the Pilgrim Way," a much beloved, Reverend Alden is visiting, passing through with a very young (boy preacher) Reverend Stuart, and has just said to Ma, "I am sorry indeed, Sister Ingalls, to see the affliction that has come to Mary." The reply comes, "Yes, Brother Alden," Ma answered sadly, "Sometimes it is hard to be resigned to God's will. We all had the scarlet fever in our place on Plum Creek, and for a while it was hard to get along. But I'm thankful that all the children were spared to us. Mary is a great comfort to me, Brother Alden. She has never once repined." Brother Alden extends encouragement and comfort, "Mary is a rare soul, and a lesson to all of us... We must remember that whom the Lord loveth, He chasteneth, and a brave spirit will turn all our afflictions to good. I don't know whether you and Brother Ingalls know that there are colleges for the blind. There is one in Iowa." The account continues, "Ma took tight hold of the edge of the dishpan. Her face

startled Laura. Her gentle voice sounded choked and hungry. She asked, 'How much does it cost?'"In this book, perhaps more than the other books in the series, the author develops the subtleties of what the Ingalls family is all about, the close interrelationships of its members, their self-sacrificing devotion to one another. With the news that there are colleges for the blind, Laura determines to work hard so that the family can afford to send Mary to one, a theme that carries throughout other books in the series. The author does a nice job of developing the central characters, especially Mary, whose blindness does not in any manner stop her from being a valuable, contributing member of the family. For example, it is Mary who warms and entertains baby Grace on her lap in the rocking chair by the fire, a repeated sweet scene. Mary is mentally sharp and keeps the free-spirited, free-wheeling Laura on her toes, particularly when it comes to being truthful and describing accurately what she (Laura) is seeing. When Laura tells her the road in front of them has disappeared, Mary objects, saying that is impossible. Laura struggles to explain. In the chapter, "The Shanty on the Claim," Laura describes the shanty, which is papered with black tar paper fastened with yellow lath strips as "tiger-striped." Mary corrects her and points out that tigers are yellow with black stripes. Laura gets her first glimpse of her future husband Almanzo Wilder, who along with his older brother Royal, passes the Ingalls family, the Wilder boys standing in a wagon, driving a beautiful, matched set of horses. Laura's attention is consumed completely by the beautiful horses, and she seems to scarcely notice the young men. We cover this series, as well as the prequel series (The Martha Years, The Charlotte Years, The Caroline Years) and the sequel series (The Rose Years) in our home school curriculum with my grandchildren, who are currently 11, 8 and 6. My grandson enjoys the books at least as much as my granddaughters.

great story and the CD works perfectly

the best books for girls

Cherry Jones once again brings the characters from Laura's story to life in a unique way. I look for excuses to travel in my car just to be able to listen to another segment of the story! I have read all the books in the series, but I am discovering many aspects for the first time, simply by having them read aloud to me with such care. I bought the first set of CDs to try it out - then I couldn't get the rest of them quickly enough to keep up with my renewed enthusiasm for the stories. My only regret is that one day, I WILL reach the end of my supply! Of course, I can wait a little while & then start listening all over again - but at the moment I am relishing the freshness that comes with each CD. They are,

indeed, American classics - but even as an Australian, I see the universality of the subject material, especially as read (& sung) by Cherry Jones. These stories are timeless and profound. My admiration for the family of Charles & Caroline Ingalls grows daily. They are absolutely still alive in these recordings - the voice, the music, the story. We get to know Laura and her family & friends a little better. I will probably always re-read the books with the voice of Cherry Jones in my head - this is a good thing! Thank You!

Got these for my 9 year old daughter and they are great looking books. Quality stock and the pictures are very nice. Only quibble is that the cardboard case was already damaged on delivery (due to the quality paper stock, these books are heavier than similar sized paperbacks, but I guess the case wasn't any stronger). Wasn't a big deal for us as we haven't ever been able to keep one of those cased intact for long anyway. Plus, there are a few more book in the series that aren't included with the set so the case would eventually be left begined anyway. That being said, if this is important to you, may be something to consider. Although, if requested, would probably send a replacement, we just didn't bother.

I was talking to my daughter and found out she had never read The Little House books. I just can't live in a world where they haven't read it. So I bought this for her to read to my granddaughter. This is not the feel good everything works out by the end of the TV show read. It is a story of hardship and privation. An in depth look and our brave ancestors and what they had to endure to realize their dreams. Of course there is love and family and happiness too. The accounts of their daily lives are amazing.

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