



Little Town at the Crossroads

Maria D. Wilkes , Dan Andreasen (Illustrator)

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Caroline watches eagerly as buildings spring up overnight and more and more families move into the growing town of Brookfield, Wisconsin. There are all sorts of exciting, new things for Caroline to do! She gets to march in her first Independence Day parade, a circus comes to town, and there are new faces in school almost every week. But Mother keeps saying that she wants to move to a larger farm. Will Caroline have to say good-bye to the little town of Brookfield? The adventures of the little girl who would grow up to be Ma Ingalls in the Little House books continues.

Little Town at the Crossroads Details

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From Reader Review Little Town at the Crossroads for online ebook

Kristen Luppino says

Second book is better than the first yet again. I also enjoyed hearing about from where the author gathered her information to write the book. This one was quite close, in Brookfield, WI, which was also fun!

Rebecca says

This was a perfectly fine entry in the series, episodic and with no throughline. It seems to have been based on original accounts by Caroline Quiner's sister, and I think maybe the author stuck too close to the originals to give the book just a little more cohesion. But then, the original Little House books were just accounts of daily life, so perhaps no more is needed.

Celine says

The setting is in Brookfield, Wisconsin. The main character is Caroline, who became the mom of the famous Laura Ingalls. This book is really interesting and talks about life in the prairies before it was settled. Life was hard in the prairies but this book talks about the fun they had, too.

Natalie Joy says

I missed this series when I was first discovering the world of "Little House" back as a 10 year old, so when I saw this book at the local thrift shop I went ahead and picked it up. Who wouldn't want to know more about Ma? But really...no one can capture Laura Ingalls Wilder's voice like Laura herself. Wilkes tries, but it lacks that charm that comes from firsthand experience (I felt the same way about The Rose Years books). I think the biggest thing was that the book felt like a bunch of random events strung together with no overarching general plot. Normally I'd rate this a 2, but if I were the target age I'm certain I would have liked it better, so it gets an extra star because of that!

Dawn says

My eight year old daughter and I continue to enjoy these accounts of Ma (Caroline) Ingalls and her growing up years! We get a little impatient waiting for the next volume to arrive at the library :).

Mary-Jane says

This book tells more of the day-to-day life of Caroline who lives just outside of the small town of Brookfield. At school Caroline, makes friends with a German girl. At the end of the book, the family learns they must move since they are renters (and the owner wants his property back).

Zoe says

While these books don't have the detail of day to day life that the originals written by Wilder have, they do a beautiful job of showing the reactions of a young girl to the changes of a pioneering life, and give us some insight on how Laura Ingalls mother became the strong woman we saw in the books.

Amy Flink says

I loved this book as much as the first one!! My favorite parts were when Caroline befriends the German girl, Elsa, and when the circus comes to town and Caroline is convinced that two white bears have escaped from the circus and that she saw them climbing trees in her back yard!

Emily says

I have been reading the Caroline Years and the Laura Years ever since I was a kid so whenever I read this book I remember a bunch of memories of what I thought of the book when I first read it. This book is like an old friend to me.

Kasey says

This was a great read. I really liked learning more about Ma when she was a little girl and how she grew up in Wisconsin. 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.

Gl says

I am a huge fan of the Laura Ingalls stories!!! The tried and true Laura stories are by far my favorites, but when I came across stories of her great-grandmother all the way down to her daughter, I was thrilled.

Rosa Cline says

This is the second book in the Little House books Caroline series. As with the others this second book was

better than the first due to already knowing the characters and being able to just enjoy the storyline and being 'there in the moment' with them. A simple but heartwarming easy read, perfect to help drift your mind into another time and place before you have to go to bed. Love these books!

Wendy Darling says

3.5 stars Enjoyable, though I'm starting to tire of too many anecdotes that are too similar to ones in the original books. Still, the writing is better than in the other non-Laura Little House books I've read so far, and who knows how narrow the guidelines were for this commissioned work.

It is interesting that Caroline is not portrayed much like the even-tempered, somewhat narrow-minded adult she became, so I'm curious to see how her character develops. This spinoff usually does best when it takes a little creative license to imagine its heroine's life as its own entity, and not just as the future mother of Laura Ingalls.

Ashley Perham says

I actually liked this book a lot better than the first one. Charlotte seemed to lighten up some and have fun. There's not really an overall story arc, just little episodes. I'm fine with that style though. Sometimes you need to read a little fun book that doesn't require too much brain power. Basically the one word that would describe this book is sweet. Caroline is sweet, her friend Anna is sweet, the spelling bee is sweet, the cover is sweet, pretty much everything about this book is sweet.

Except for Martha. For a nine-year-old, she's sorta a jerk. She leads Caroline into doing wrong stuff (although that's also Caroline's fault), she's boy-crazy, and she's disobedient. Really?! Also, I liked a boy when I was nine, but I don't remember constantly asking to be around him....

Also, the maturity of these kids is amazing! Joseph is only 12 years old, but he could practically be the man of the house! I really enjoyed this book! I hope the others are as nice!

02michellek says

Little Town at the Crossroads By Maria D Wilkes
By Michelle King period 2 English

The book I read is called little town at the crossroads. It about this girl named Martha and her family. This book takes place back in around the 17 and 18 hundreds. Some ideas about this book was well they did farming. Which wasn't the main idea but obviously for a pioneer family they of course needed food to survive.

The book was organized very well. I liked how it was about a pioneer family living in the west. I did not find any weird or just out of place parts in the book. It was also very well detailed and I really liked that!

The person who wrote this book, who was Maria D Wilkes, wrote the story very well. Sometimes I guess it felt like you were a friend visiting and you experience the whole thing. She was really detailed in her writing and that's what made the book really enjoyable.

The word use in this book was very well used. It was pretty nice how she really described things so you can get a clear picture in your head what she was describing. It wasn't just like one word, but she took sentences to describe them. It seemed a little long sometimes, but I really appreciated it.

The fluency is very proper because back in those times. They were really strict on behavior and words you said. So you rarely heard a child say something mean. They also had a touch of western in the way they talk. The conventions in this book are very simple. Instead of buying their food. They grew it. Instead of a heater to keep them warm. They would build a fire. These conventions are definitely not similar to the conventions we have now.

This book was very interesting. I loved the fact that it was based on a pioneer family and it was kind of cute! I am very happy I was able to read this and it was fun to read this book!

Stephanie Snyder says

One of our family's favorites.

A classic.

A great choice for every child's bookshelf.

Barbara says

A continuation of Caroline's story, but again nicely written.

Jaime K says

This begins on the 70th anniversary of Independence, and it's interesting to see the freedom of children running about and firecrackers randomly going off. People were alive who had known the war, which is amazing.

There was also gun powder being exploded which is a bit nerve wracking.

It ends a year and a half later, at Christmas. Its a great book with plusses, but something about it doesn't make me give it 5 stars. 4.5 definitely.

We see how immigrants were treated. What makes me sad is that very few things have changed. Even if people show patience towards them, they still receive animosity and "you must speak English."

I like the benefits farmers have when owning a dog.

With that, farming isn't easy. My students informed me 3 years ago that groundhogs and chipmunks wreak

havoc on farms. I was surprised. But I shouldn't have been - that fact is stated very plainly here.

Martha becomes almost ridiculous with her crush on Charlie Carpenter. And yet, a lot of it is understandable. She's a young teen and her behavior reflects that.

I do find it a bit humorous that, since we read this through Caroline's eyes, the 6/7-year-old hasn't caught on to her sister's fancy. Her brothers certainly have, but there's naivety from Caroline. It's adorable.

I like that we see more of Mrs. Carpenter!

It's very sad when grandma goes back to Milwaukee. I looked up the general distance between the city and Brookfield: about 13 miles. 20 minutes without traffic (according to Google maps). So it's even more sad that such a distance was too long for anything more than once-a-year interactions (if that).

Charlotte telling her daughter that young ladies don't crawl around the floor made me laugh aloud. The idea of children not knowing that Christmas was year until a week or two out sounds fantastic and relaxing.

The phrase "This is so pumpkins" made me snort. It's so weird!

I freaking LOVE the reminder that there are good and bad people of all kinds, and that an impression of one (or a few) from a given culture is not reflective of that entire culture/group of people. Thus, there is no need for animosity towards others simply because of their "group."

I love that circuses came through towns like we see in shows and movies these days. I would thoroughly enjoy seeing that.

Glen Mena says

It is a good book and makes me know more about the places they added in the book like boston.

Michelle says

I kind of expected these books to pick up after the previous one finished, I don't know why. But this focuses on another year or so in young Caroline Quiner's early years in Brookfield, shortly after the previous book ended.

In this, we see more of Caroline at school and having to deal with a new teacher; a very Nellie Oleson-esque character who speaks to her as abominably as the infamous Nellie did to Laura; "white bears" and a whole host of other daily adventures.

There are a couple of weird coincidences in this particular book, or I'm remembering the original books wrong. The author's note states that prior to writing the books, Laura contacted her mum's older sister, Martha, for stories about them growing up. I can understand that, seeing as Caroline died in 1924. So why so many similarities between the books? Two different authors, which both speak about Indians "visiting" the house (maybe I'm remembering this from the TV show) and the biggest coincidence of all - Mr Carpenter

singing “Old Dan Tucker”. Those of you most familiar with the book and TV show, will know that this is famously sung by Mr Edwards, played by Victor French in the show. I’m sure there may be other coincidences that I should have picked up on, had I read the originals before starting these.

I have noticed one glaring mistake in this book - the first book talks about Martha going out with a new dress and a hole in her shoe, and getting teased by the Town Girls (ie Nellie Oleson’s grandmother and her crew!) but in this book, written by the same author, it clearly says that Martha wasn’t wearing shoes when she started getting teased by this gaggle of girls. I read both of these back to back. It was a very obvious mistake that shouldn’t have made it to print.

The book ends with the prospect of Caroline’s family having to move away from their little home in Brookfield, so I look forward to picking up the next one and hopefully getting Caroline that one step closer to meeting Charles.
