



Bound Like Grass: A Memoir from the Western High Plains (Paperback)

By Ruth McLaughlin

University of Oklahoma Press, United States, 2012. Paperback. Condition: New. Reprint. Language: English . Brand New Book. At the start of this haunting memoir, Ruth McLaughlin returns to the site of her childhood home in rural eastern Montana. In place of her family s house, she finds only rubble and a blackened chimney. A fire has taken the old farmstead and with it ninety-seven years of hard-luck memories. Amidst the ruins, a lone tree survives, reminding her of her family s stubborn will to survive despite hardships that included droughts, hunger, and mental illness.Bound Like Grass is McLaughlin s account of her own -- and her family s -- struggle to survive on their isolated wheat and cattle farm. With acute observation, she explores her roots as a descendant of Swedish American grandparents who settled in Montana at the turn of the twentieth century with high ambitions, and of parents who barely managed to eke out a living on their own neighboring farm. In unvarnished prose, McLaughlin reveals the costs of homesteading on such unforgiving land, including emotional impoverishment and a necessary thrift bordering on deprivation. Yet in this bleak world, poverty also inspired ingenuity. Ruth learned to self-administer a...



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