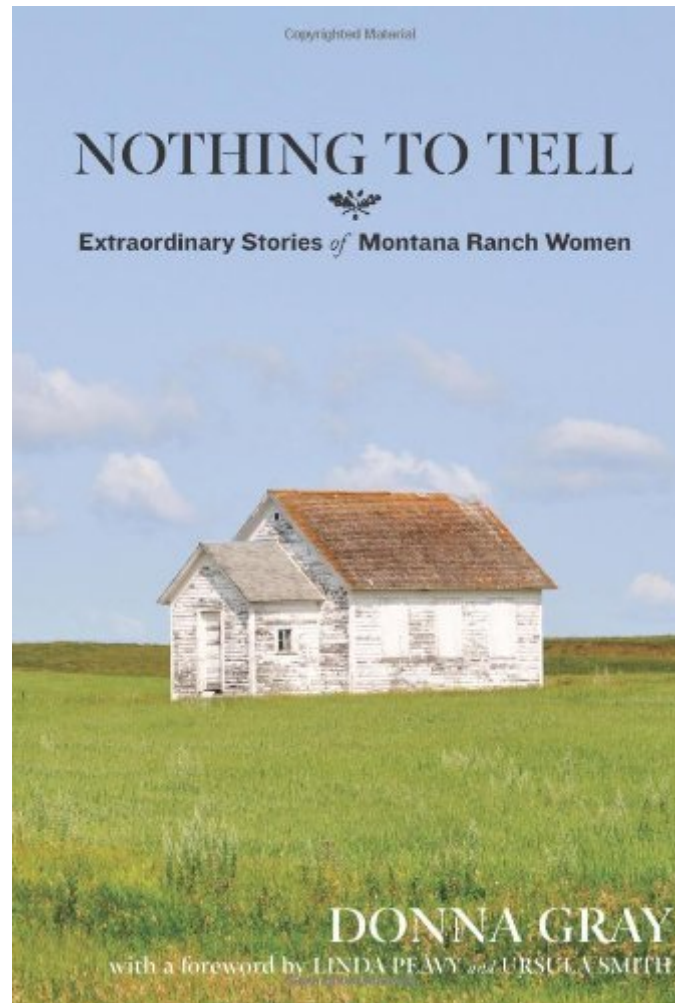




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Nothing To Tell: Extraordinary Stories Of Montana Ranch Women



Synopsis

Sitting at the kitchen tables of twelve women in their eighties who were born in or immigrated to Montana in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century, between 1982 and 1988 oral historian Donna Gray conducted interviews that reveal a rich heritage. In retelling their life stories, Gray steps aside and allows these women with supposedly "nothing to tell" to speak for themselves. Pride, nostalgia, and triumph fill a dozen hearts as they realize how remarkable their lives have been and wonder how they did it all. Some of these women grew up in Montana in one-bedroom houses; others traveled in covered wagons before finding a home and falling in love with Montana. These raw accounts bring to life the childhood memories and adulthood experiences of ranch wives who were not afraid to milk a cow or bake in a wooden stove. From raising poultry to raising a family, these women knew the meaning of hard work. Several faced the hardships of family illness, poverty, and early widowhood. Through it all, they were known for their good sense of humor and strong sense of self.

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Customer Reviews

I'm torn between a three-star and a four-star review on this one ... the book has some great stories

and I really really like the way the "voices" of the women were maintained, you could hear the inflection and hesitation that came through as they spoke and remembered their lives, and that was important and meaningful - but I felt the editing was poor in a lot of ways. So many times the stories being told were obviously cut off - and it was impossible to tell if the woman telling the story stopped or if Donna Gray decided to cut the story short. Additional commentary to tell us "she suddenly cut off and changed to another story" or "the rest of the story was unintelligible" or "she asked me not to share the ending of this story publically due to the people still being alive' or whatever would have been less jarring. Also, in one story SO MUCH of the story was in brackets and rewritten by the editor with no explanation - at least in the ebook version (there are a few footnotes at the back of the eversion, so I'm assuming that there are no footnotes to explain this heavy editing in the paper version? I don't know.) It was distracting and disappointing - again, I'd like to have had an explanation as to why entire sentences ore more were in brackets - it wasn't just a case of giving us context of a name where the speaker said "she" or somesuch. That said - the stories told were varied, the lives shared were amazing, and I loved that each one ended with an explanation of when the interviews were done and how much longer the woman lived before her death. These women are an inspiration - to have lived, raised families, and thrived in such environments, with so little and with such amenities is amazing.

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