



Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression

By Mildred Armstrong Kalish

Download now

Read Online →

Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression By Mildred Armstrong Kalish

I tell of a time, a place, and a way of life long gone. For many years I have had the urge to describe that treasure trove, lest it vanish forever. So, partly in response to the basic human instinct to share feelings and experiences, and partly for the sheer joy and excitement of it all, I report on my early life. It was quite a romp.

So begins Mildred Kalish's story of growing up on her grandparents' Iowa farm during the depths of the Great Depression. With her father banished from the household for mysterious transgressions, five-year-old Mildred and her family could easily have been overwhelmed by the challenge of simply trying to survive. This, however, is not a tale of suffering.

Kalish counts herself among the lucky of that era. She had caring grandparents who possessed—and valiantly tried to impose—all the pioneer virtues of their forebears, teachers who inspired and befriended her, and a barnyard full of animals ready to be tamed and loved. She and her siblings and their cousins from the farm across the way played as hard as they worked, running barefoot through the fields, as free and wild as they dared.

Filled with recipes and how-tos for everything from catching and skinning a rabbit to preparing homemade skin and hair beautifiers, apple cream pie, and the world's best head cheese (start by scrubbing the head of the pig until it is pink and clean), *Little Heathens* portrays a world of hardship and hard work tempered by simple rewards. There was the unsurpassed flavor of tender new dandelion greens harvested as soon as the snow melted; the taste of crystal clear marble-sized balls of honey robbed from a bumblebee nest; the sweet smell from the body of a lamb sleeping on sun-warmed grass; and the magical quality of oat shocking under the light of a full harvest moon.

Little Heathens offers a loving but realistic portrait of a “hearty-handshake Methodist” family that gave its members a remarkable legacy of kinship, kindness, and remembered pleasures. Recounted in a luminous narrative filled with tenderness and humor, Kalish's memoir of her childhood shows how the

right stuff can make even the bleakest of times seem like “quite a romp.”

From the Hardcover edition.

 [Download Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on ...pdf](#)

Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression

By Mildred Armstrong Kalish

Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression By Mildred Armstrong Kalish

I tell of a time, a place, and a way of life long gone. For many years I have had the urge to describe that treasure trove, lest it vanish forever. So, partly in response to the basic human instinct to share feelings and experiences, and partly for the sheer joy and excitement of it all, I report on my early life. It was quite a romp.

So begins Mildred Kalish's story of growing up on her grandparents' Iowa farm during the depths of the Great Depression. With her father banished from the household for mysterious transgressions, five-year-old Mildred and her family could easily have been overwhelmed by the challenge of simply trying to survive. This, however, is not a tale of suffering.

Kalish counts herself among the lucky of that era. She had caring grandparents who possessed—and valiantly tried to impose—all the pioneer virtues of their forebears, teachers who inspired and befriended her, and a barnyard full of animals ready to be tamed and loved. She and her siblings and their cousins from the farm across the way played as hard as they worked, running barefoot through the fields, as free and wild as they dared.

Filled with recipes and how-tos for everything from catching and skinning a rabbit to preparing homemade skin and hair beautifiers, apple cream pie, and the world's best head cheese (start by scrubbing the head of the pig until it is pink and clean), *Little Heathens* portrays a world of hardship and hard work tempered by simple rewards. There was the unsurpassed flavor of tender new dandelion greens harvested as soon as the snow melted; the taste of crystal clear marble-sized balls of honey robbed from a bumblebee nest; the sweet smell from the body of a lamb sleeping on sun-warmed grass; and the magical quality of oat shocking under the light of a full harvest moon.

Little Heathens offers a loving but realistic portrait of a “hearty-handshake Methodist” family that gave its members a remarkable legacy of kinship, kindness, and remembered pleasures. Recounted in a luminous narrative filled with tenderness and humor, Kalish's memoir of her childhood shows how the right stuff can make even the bleakest of times seem like “quite a romp.”

From the Hardcover edition.

Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression By Mildred Armstrong Kalish **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #305340 in eBooks
- Published on: 2007-05-29

- Released on: 2007-05-29
- Format: Kindle eBook

 [Download Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online *Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression* By Mildred Armstrong Kalish

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Kalish's memoir of her Iowa childhood, set against the backdrop of the Depression, captures a vanished way of traditional living and a specific moment in American history in a story both illuminating and memorable. Kalish lived with her siblings, mother and grandparents—seven in all—both in a town home and, in warmer weather, out on a farm. The lifestyle was frugal in the extreme: "The only things my grandparents spent money on were tea, coffee, sugar, salt, white flour, cloth and kerosene." But in spite of the austere conditions, Kalish's memories are mostly happy ones: keeping the farm and home going, caring for animals, cooking elaborate multi-course meals and washing the large family's laundry once a week, by hand. Here, too, are stories of gossiping in the kitchen, digging a hole to China with the "Big Kids" and making head cheese at butchering time. Kalish skillfully rises above bitterness and sentiment, giving her memoir a clear-eyed narrative voice that puts to fine use a lifetime of careful observation: "Observing the abundance of life around us was just so naturally a part of our days on the farm that it became a habit." Simple, detailed and honest, this is a refreshing and informative read for anyone interested in the struggles of average Americans in the thick of the Great Depression.

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

One of the most endearing qualities of octogenarian Mildred Armstrong Kalish's *Little Heathens* is that it runs counter to what the memoir, sadly, has too frequently become—self-indulgent, self-promoting gossip. Despite circumstances that could easily have left her embittered, Kalish, a retired English professor, recalls her formative years fondly. Through simple, honest prose punctuated with "her old pagan rhythms" (*New York Times Book Review*) and a host of memorable examples, Kalish performs her greatest feat, which is to make some of us under 80 just the slightest bit envious—crazy to say, but such is human nature—that we never experienced the Depression-era challenges and triumphs so lovingly recounted.

Copyright © 2004 Phillips & Nelson Media, Inc.

From [Booklist](#)

This unpretentious yet deeply intelligent memoir of growing up on a central Iowa farm in the throes of the Great Depression radiates the joy of a vanished way of life as Kalish recounts what appear to contemporary eyes as unendurable deprivations. Those who share Kalish's midwestern farm background will immediately identify with her recollections of winter nights spent under layers of quilts in unheated bedrooms. Others for whom agrarian life is uncharted territory will learn both the harsh rigors of days governed by unforgiving work cycles and the irreproducible sensual pleasure of savoring a just-picked, sun-drenched, ripe strawberry or tomato. In prose that never yields to mawkish sentimentality, Kalish details the roles of family, religion, thrift, and education in her upbringing. The complexities of wash-day chores will bring up short those who know only today's appliances. Kalish's disquisition on outhouse etiquette will simply amaze those accustomed to their own bathrooms. *Mark Knoblauch*

Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Katherine Sherrer:

As people who live in the modest era should be up-date about what going on or details even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era which can be always change and progress. Some of you maybe will update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to you is you don't know what kind you should start with. This Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and need in this era.

Rhonda Hoffman:

The book untitled Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression contain a lot of information on that. The writer explains your ex idea with easy approach. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do not really worry, you can easy to read this. The book was written by famous author. The author will take you in the new period of time of literary works. You can actually read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or gadget, so you can read the book with anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can wide open their official web-site in addition to order it. Have a nice examine.

Heather Killen:

Beside this Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression in your phone, it could possibly give you a way to get closer to the new knowledge or information. The information and the knowledge you will got here is fresh through the oven so don't possibly be worry if you feel like an outdated people live in narrow commune. It is good thing to have Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression because this book offers for you readable information. Do you at times have book but you would not get what it's interesting features of. Oh come on, that will not happen if you have this within your hand. The Enjoyable arrangement here cannot be questionable, similar to treasuring beautiful island. Techniques you still want to miss it? Find this book along with read it from currently!

Shelia Sepulveda:

Don't be worry when you are afraid that this book may filled the space in your house, you can have it in e-book approach, more simple and reachable. That Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression can give you a lot of buddies because by you checking out this one book you have issue that they don't and make you more like an interesting person. This book can be one of a step for you to get success. This reserve offer you information that perhaps your friend doesn't know, by knowing more than different make you to be great individuals. So , why hesitate? Let us have Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression.

Download and Read Online Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression By Mildred Armstrong Kalish #9M2DIKPULF6

Read Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression By Mildred Armstrong Kalish for online ebook

Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression By Mildred Armstrong Kalish Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression By Mildred Armstrong Kalish books to read online.

Online Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression By Mildred Armstrong Kalish ebook PDF download

Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression By Mildred Armstrong Kalish Doc

Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression By Mildred Armstrong Kalish Mobipocket

Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression By Mildred Armstrong Kalish EPub

9M2DIKPULF6: Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression By Mildred Armstrong Kalish