



A Lantern in Her Hand (Puffin Classics)

By Bess Streeter Aldrich

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The classic story of Abbie and Will Deal—pioneers who left everything behind for a new life on America's frontier.

Abbie Mackenzie dreamed of becoming a fine lady like her aristocratic grandmother, devoting herself to music and art. But at eighteen Abbie found a different dream, turning away from the promise of a comfortable life as a doctor's wife to marry handsome, quiet Will Deal. Together, they eagerly accepted the challenge of homesteading in Nebraska territory, where the prairies stretched as far as the eye could see, and only the strongest survived for long.

For nearly 90 years, readers have cherished Abbie's story—an inspiring story of struggle against unexpected perils, of love and laughter, of the land she helped conquer and the family she raised.

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A Lantern in Her Hand (Puffin Classics) By Bess Streeter Aldrich Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

“Piercingly beautiful. . . . Aldrich’s pioneer woman was based on her mother, and the integrity of her depiction of life in a sod house in the late nineteenth-century Nebraska speaks to her readers. . . . In her own introduction Aldrich writes of wanting to tell her mother’s story after her mother’s death: ‘Other writers had depicted the Midwest’s early days, but so often they had pictured their women as gaunt, browbeaten creatures, despairing women whom life seemed to defeat. That was not my mother. Not with her courage, her humor, her nature that would cause her to say at the end of her life: ‘We had the best time in the world.’”—*Belles Lettres*

“The language is good and sturdy and dotted with imaginative metaphors and similes (‘Silence, so deep, that it roared in its vast vacuum’). If the book tries to crowd too much life into 300 pages, well, there was a lot of life: ‘We old pioneers,’ Abbie says at the end, ‘we dreamed dreams into the country.’”—*Milwaukee Journal*

From the Back Cover

When *A Lantern in Her Hand* came out in 1928, critics took little notice, but people everywhere soon discovered it. By the end of 1919, even as the Great Depression set in, Bess Streeter Aldrich's novel was in its twenty-first printing. Now translated into over twenty languages, *A Lantern in Her Hand* has outlasted literary fashions to touch generations of readers. It is the classic story of a pioneer woman. Bess Streeter Aldrich knew what she was writing about. Her protagonist, a strong-minded pioneer woman named Abbie Deal, was modeled on her own mother, who in 1854 had traveled by covered wagon to the Midwest. In *A Lantern in Her Hand*, Abbie accompanies her family to the soon-to-be state of Nebraska. There, in 1865, she marries and settles into a sod house of her own. The novel describes Abbie's years of child-raising, of making a frontier home able to withstand every adversity. A disciplined writer knowledgeable about true stories of pioneer days in Nebraska, Bess Streeter Aldrich conveys the strength of everyday things, the surprise of familiar faces, and the look of the unspoiled landscape during different seasons. Refusing to be broken by hard experience, Abbie sets a joyful example for her family - and for her readers. This Bison Book edition includes Bess Streeter Aldrich's own story of how she came to write *A Lantern in Her Hand*.

About the Author

Bess Streeter Aldrich was one of Nebraska's most widely read and enjoyed authors. Her writing career spanned forty-some years, during which she published over 100 short stories and articles, nine novels, one novella, two books of short stories, and one omnibus. In her work, she emphasized family values and recorded accurately Midwest pioneering history. *A Lantern in her Hand* is based on her own family history.

Learn more about her at bessstreeteraldrich.com.

Users Review

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Rose Sosa:

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whatever they take because their hobby is definitely reading a book. What about the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, man feel need book whenever they found difficult problem or perhaps exercise. Well, probably you will require this A Lantern in Her Hand (Puffin Classics).

Lillie Moreland:

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James Daniels:

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them household or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent the whole day to reading a reserve. The book A Lantern in Her Hand (Puffin Classics) it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book has high quality.

Maurice Neely:

People live in this new day time of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the free time or they will get wide range of stress from both lifestyle and work. So , when we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely indeed. People is human not really a huge robot. Then we ask again, what kind of activity are you experiencing when the spare time coming to a person of course your answer may unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading books. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, the particular book you have read will be A Lantern in Her Hand (Puffin Classics).

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