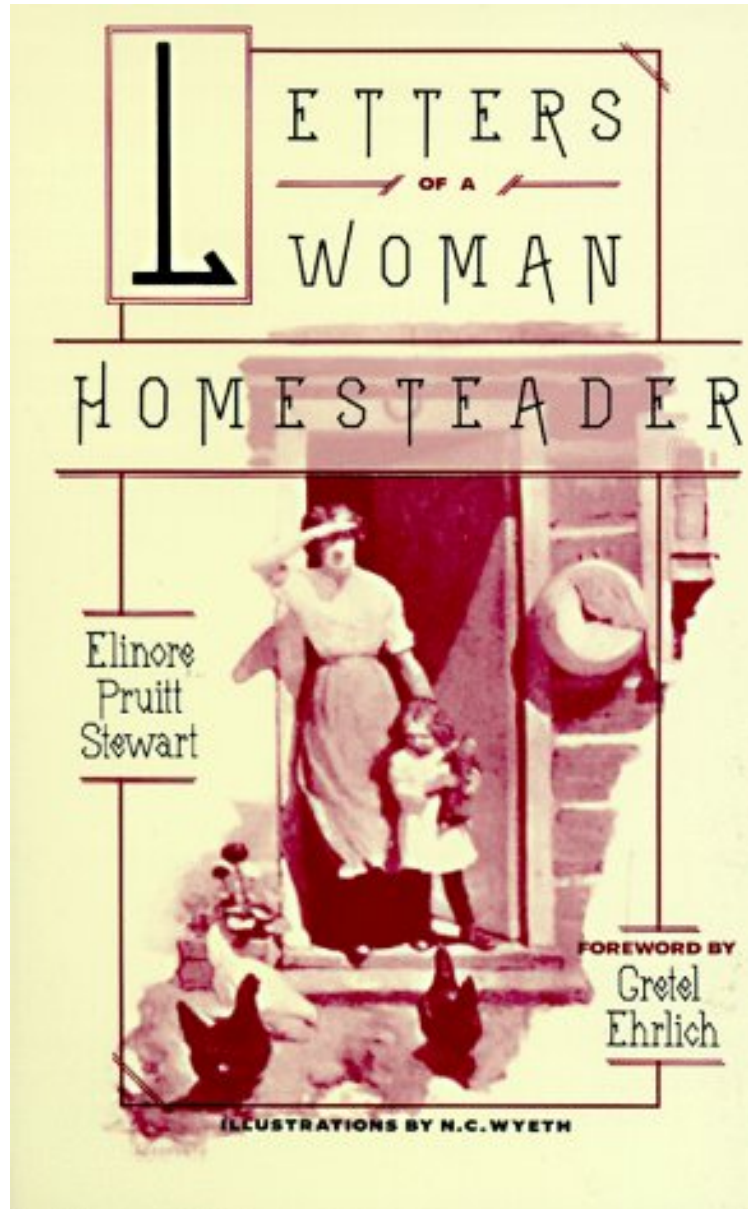


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## Letters of a Woman Homesteader

*Elinore Pruitt Stewart*

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**Elinore Pruitt Stewart : Letters of a Woman Homesteader** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Letters of a Woman Homesteader:

621 of 624 people found the following review helpful. Delightful and interesting!By SnowbrocadeSince this Kindle book has no introduction or information on the book page, I copied a publishers note I found on on the Google books

website which provides some background information about the author. "The writer of the following letters is a young woman who lost her husband in a railroad accident and went to Denver to seek support for herself and her two-year-old daughter, Jerrine. Turning her hand to the nearest work, she went out by the day to work as a housecleaner and laundress. Later, seeking to better herself, she accepted employment as a housekeeper for a well-to-do Scottish cattleman, Mr. Stewart, who had taken up a quarter-section in Wyoming. The letters, written through several years to a former employer in Denver, tell of her new life in the new country. They are genuine letters, and are printed as written, except for occasional omissions and alterations of names."The letters begin in 1909, apparently right after a homestead act made it possible for the author, Elinore Pruitt Stewart, to claim a homestead of 160 acres in Wyoming. Ms. Stewart is a very resourceful woman as well as a wonderful story-teller. She explains that she never received formal education but she refers to current literature so I am guessing that she has learned to write from her interest in reading.

Apparently she was a prolific author in her time and one of her descendants has published a book about her. (There are pictures of her on the web and more information if you want to know more about her.)Elinore has a cheerful and pragmatic approach to life making her well-written letters a lot of fun to read. She mostly writes about events, usually involving meeting some of the other inhabitants of the area, ranging from mountain men to Mormons. She loves to go camping and several times recounts setting out on her horse with her baby and camping in the wilderness. She brings very little supplies, catching trout and snaring rabbits for food. She also does some description of her everyday life which apparently was very busy and full of hard work but she always describes it as fulfilling.I enjoyed this slice of life from another time. It is a quick fun read and definitely worth the price!91 of 92 people found the following review helpful. Don't hesitateBy D. LorenLetters of a Woman HomesteaderThis was recommended in one of Jessamyn West's memos. It was so interesting I could not put it down. How courageous this woman was and what a great sense of humor. If you ever thought life was too hard to move forward, just read this book and become inspired!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Charming Homesteader Tales-By J. SteinerThis is a wonderfully informative read written in letter form by a woman homesteader who was a widowed mother. In letters to her dear friend and former employer we learn about daily life as a woman desiring to homestead the frontier, mountainous country with as much independence as possible (just to prove it can be done). Her description of the home she creates, a new marriage, family life, adventures traveling throughout the territory and descriptions of the other settlers and westerners with whom she easily befriends, captivates and inspires. The authoress is not a perfect woman and shares her trials as well as the joys of homesteading with much humor and lightheartedness. She is clever and caring in her descriptions of the people in her community and the strangers she meets on her travels. The beauty of the landscape which she shares through the written word allows her reader to enjoy the beautiful surroundings with her. I loved the book for her frank and quirky descriptions and her positive outlook. This is not a pioneer story of endless tragedy and depressing survival but a promising description of how a woman seeking a new, adventurous life could find success with hard work, humor and goodwill for her neighbors. When I was about 3/4 through the book a circumstance in the narrative reminded me that I had actually read the book previously. I was a bit surprised by my late recollection as the writing style is so descriptive and easy, I obviously became caught up afresh in the authors stories and enjoyed her characters in a fresh way. For those who enjoy American history- this woman's letters will give original insight into that by-gone era of discovery which shaped and forged our country, as much in tandem by brave insightful, women as by the men of the time.

In a rich blend of memoir and meditation, Abbott focuses her graceful and witty attention on mothers and daughters of the South. Theirs is a world of red dirt and backbreaking chores and roof-raising revival meetings - a far cry from the magnolias and mint juleps of *Gone with the Wind*. "The South of the backwoods, hillbilly plain folk has at last found its true and inspired interpreter," says C. Vann Woodward.

From Publishers WeeklyGeorge provides biographical insight into the author of the 1914 pioneer classic *Letters of a Woman Homesteader*, giving a detailed presentation of Stewart's previously uncollected letters. Photos. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.From School Library JournalGrade 7 UpAfter deciding that city life as a laundress wasn't for her, Elinore Pruitt, a young widowed mother, accepted an offer to assist with a ranch in Wyoming, work that she found exceedingly more rewarding. In this delightful collection of letters, she describes these experiences to her former employer, Mrs. Coney. Pruitt's charming descriptions of work, travels, neighbors, animals, land and sky have an authentic feel. The West comes alive, and everyday life becomes captivating. Her writing is clear, witty, and entertaining. The 26 letters are brief and tell about her life on the ranch in the early 1900s. The author frequently and unnecessarily apologizes for being too wordy; she begs forgiveness for many "faults," like being forgetful, ungrateful, inconsistent and indifferent, all without apparent cause. On occasion, language reflects the racial prejudice of the time. Many times, Pruitt attempts to portray the culturally diverse characters she meets by writing their various dialects as they sound. Kate Fleming's narration is as smooth as the writing, perfectly transitioning from one accent to the next. She reads with a calm, down-to-earth tone, which suits the writing well.Kariana Cullen Gonzales, Lincoln Consolidated High School, Ypsilanti, MI Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed

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