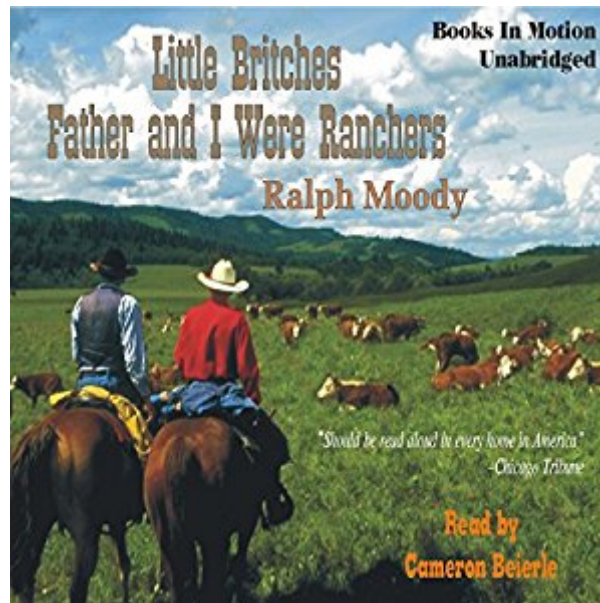




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Father And I Were Ranchers: Little Britches # 1



Synopsis

Ralph Moody was eight years old in 1906 when his family moved from New Hampshire to a Colorado ranch. Through his eyes we experience the pleasures and perils of ranching there early in the twentieth century. Auctions and roundups, family picnics, irrigation wars, tornadoes and wind storms give authentic color to Little Britches. So do adventures, wonderfully told, that equip Ralph to take his father's place when it becomes necessary.~ Little Britches was the literary debut of Ralph Moody, who wrote about the adventures of his family in eight glorious books, all available as Bison Books. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 8 hours~ and~ 11 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Books in Motion

Audible.com Release Date: October 27, 2008

Language: English

ASIN: B001JHT7DE

Best Sellers Rank: #3 in~ Books > Audible Audiobooks > Children's Books > Nonfiction #3 in~ Books > Audible Audiobooks > Children's Books > Biographies & History #52 in~ Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > United States & Canada

Customer Reviews

If you are the type who enjoys "Little House" books and homespun tales from the turn of the century, you'll probably love this book. I had read at least a chapter or two in before I realized that this was not fiction. No, our young rascalion Ralph is (or was) a real person, and is the author of this book and several others in a series. He certainly gets into trouble. I would think this book would be a fun one for a 10 year-old boy to read, but it works for the rest of us as well. Plenty of tough times factor into the story; it's certainly not always light. But really enjoyable, particularly for those of us who grew up in rural Colorado (albeit not at the turn of the century, natch). I've heard the 2nd book in the series is even better, though I've not yet read it.

I read this book aloud to my 6 year old son through out the school year. He loved it even though he didn't understand everything. We looked forward to reading a chapter each new day. I also enjoyed

the book. I especially loved the lessons Ralph learned from his Father, Charlie. I loved that the book teaches such good moral characteristics that inspire people to make good choices and work hard. I loved the loyalty Ralph felt to his Father and the pride he had in helping to take care of his family. It was very touching and I look forward to reading it again someday as my kids grow a little older.

By the time he was 22, Ralph Moody had lived more adventures than most of us will know in several lifetimes. Ralph's adventures are, I think, even greater because he came West (1906) at a time when the West was wide open for opportunity: the days of open range had ended about 20 years earlier and places like Colorado had been sufficiently settled so as to provide basic services (and safety), but there were not as yet so many people as to saturate the market. Small fortunes could be made and lost as fast as an industrious young man could think them up and carry them out! But more than that, Ralph Moody simply had a determination and confidence and aptitude that enabled and motivated him to go out and make his own fortune and adventure in the world. So on one level, the entire Little Britches series (all eight books) is a testament to what a person can do if he takes life by the reins (pun only partially intended). Yes, life was hard, but Ralph never let circumstances discourage him. And he had an amazing father and mother who provided him with a rock-solid moral and spiritual foundation in addition to a unwavering work ethic. This was an era when there was no income tax, and a man could pretty much keep whatever income he could generate, by hook or by crook (or by "crooked"--but not Ralph!). So if the Moody kids collected coal that fell off the trains, they could sell it to their neighbors and make enough money for a widow to survive--and neither the IRS nor Social Services had a problem! But on a more basic level, Ralph Moody simply had a fantastic gift for telling a story that is engaging, unique, suspenseful, poignant, informative, delightful. It seems clear that Ralph kept a fairly detailed diary from his early years (although the only verification that I've found of this assumption is Ralph's own reference to "going off to write in my journal" when he lived in Maine). His ability to recreate events that happened years earlier, and his ability to describe them so wonderfully, speak to a lifetime of observing and writing about the world around him from an early age. Alas, I have not been able to find any satisfying information about "the rest of the story" about Ralph Moody outside of his eight books. We know he worked for Procter & Gamble in California and had a long marriage with three children. The National Little Britches Rodeo Association was started in Littleton after this book was published in 1950, although, incredibly, the rodeo association does not credit Ralph Moody on its own website (not that I could find)! For anyone who has a love of the West--or rural life in general--in the twilight of the era before WWI, and who loves good writing about an amazing life, I implore you to get and read all eight

books in this series!PS--One little note: the subtitle "Father and I Were Ranchers" may lead you to guess that this is a story of a cattle rancher. In fact, farms of that day were generally referred to as "ranches" even though the primary function was growing crops, not cattle.

What a living, exciting record of life in America a hundred years ago... such a treasure of honesty, , and resourcefulness,, and what a role model for relationships between fathers and sons,. Ralph's father gave him great respect care and yet instilled wisdom and character., through each of his family's escapades and challenges.I live in Australia., and we have our own treasured pioneer stories.. I had not heard of Ralph Moody until a month ago , but NOW. I 'd like people all over AUstralia to read it in our homes.,too, it will inspire and entertain young and old alike.. I Highly recommend it...

Great book. A must read for families

Four stars or five? I think five for me, because I have personal connections to the story (although none to the author). But in 2009, this is somewhat a niche book, so I give it four for a broader audience.This book should be of definite interest to residents of Denver's southern suburbs. (The farm was near what is now W. Hampden Ave. and S. Harlan St.) Those whose ancestors were homesteaders or sharecroppers will appreciate knowing what sorts of things their kin encountered.The account is well-written and generally moves at a brisk pace; quite an impressive first work for a man who did not start writing until his 50th birthday. The book is classified as autobiographical history; by contrast, Ivan Doig's work (I'm particularly thinking "The Whistling Season" here) is much more literary in its character and plot development, and is proper fiction. For the mood, you'd want Doig; for the unadorned story, this is the one.Some reviewers seem to like the book for its moralizing segments. While I appreciate the reporting of Ralph's father's views and Ralph's reactions to them, they struck me as formulaic and somewhat simplistic in the Madoff era. Many reviewers cite it as a good read-aloud book for school-age children; I haven't tried that yet, but plan to.

Recommend this to anyone who who would be a better parent the example of his father is kind and gentle way of doing things how to teach children is awesome. The fun in his childhood as he learned his lessons of life are enchanting and engaging great stories wonderful time an era gone by that I wish I could have good read

I read this autobiography to my children and have now read it to my grandsons. This copy I sent to my granddaughter to read. Written at the turn of the last century it touches the soul. The sequel is every bit as engaging.

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