



Letters on an Elk Hunt by a Woman Homesteader

Elinore Pruitt Stewart , Elizabeth F. Ferris (Designed by)

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A continuation of Letters of a Woman Homesteader, Letters on an Elk Hunt is set in the same corner of southwestern Wyoming, the time is the fall of 1914, and (despite the title) Mrs. Stewart is far less concerned with elk hunting than with people—old friends and new acquaintances—and with the land in which she found so much beauty. Her letters, as Jessamyn West said of the earlier volume, "are, in fact (though not that alone), a collection of short stories." She added that "what makes these letters so good are not these stories, but the character of the storyteller, of Elinore Stewart herself. Her letters endure and give pleasure because she does what the great letter-writers do: she reveals herself. . . . It is the woman in this vanished landscape, the homesteader with her enormous vitality, humor, and tenderness who holds our attention." Jessamyn West's wish to know more about the author herself is fulfilled in the foreword to Letters on an Elk Hunt—an appreciative biographical sketch, incorporating material from some of Mrs. Stewart's unpublished letters as well as the reminiscences of her children. Elizabeth Fuller Ferris, of the Wilderness Women Project, Missoula, Montana, is the writer and producer of Burntfork, a film for public television funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities based upon the life of Elinore Pruitt Stewart.

Letters on an Elk Hunt by a Woman Homesteader Details

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Robin says

Excellent 2nd book to the Letters of a Woman Homesteader. These are the real letters from a real woman and I found them to be amazing. It is a very quick read.

Chrystal says

This 2nd volume contains the letters written from July 8, 1914 through October 25, 1914 when Elinore was out on an elk hunt. She sends letters to Mrs. Coney in Denver as the events are taking place. True to form, Elinore enthralls the reader with descriptions of the landscape, but mostly focuses on the people who she meets along the way. There are many sad stories in these letters; stories of suffering, hardship and loss. But she always finds the positive in each situation and always strives to learn humility from the people she meets.

"I have had a fine trip; I have experienced about all the human emotions. I had not expected to encounter so many people or to get the little inside glimpses that I've had, but wherever there are human beings there are the little histories. I have come home realizing anew how happy I am, how much I have been spared, and how many of life's blessings are mine."

Rachel says

While the first book ("Letters from a Woman Homesteader") discussed Pruitt's adventures homesteading, this one is all about an elk hunt she and her husband go on with some of their friends. They encounter all kinds of interesting people, help some folks out, get helped out by others, and generally enjoy being out in the wide world. I found it enthralling. Not quite as wonderful as "Letters from a Woman Homesteader," but nearly so.

Hope says

In 1909 Elinore Pruitt went out west to Wyoming and married Clyde Stewart. Her interesting story is told in "Letters of a Woman Homesteader." This second book (a series of letters to a dear friend) was written five years later on a elk hunting trip. Her descriptions of people and places make this a fascinating read.

Describing abandoned houses she wrote, They were "hope's skeletons with their yawning doors and windows like eyeless sockets. (p. 25)

On life's challenges: "It had made her swim when she wanted to float."

In one scene the horses will not budge until someone remembers that their previous owners cussed at them. So the women cover their ears while the men get them moving in the only way they know how. (!)

Elinore's good humor mixed with the pathos of real-life hardships make this a pleasant excursion into American history. It was intriguing to think that there were still homesteaders and a "wild west" atmosphere as late as 1914.

Antonio Ceté says

Hay una parte de niños chupando limones que casi me mata de alegría. Alerta: un poco timo, que más de la mitad es de otras mujeres del oeste. La parte buena es que también está muy bien.

Kirstin says

I think I enjoyed this even more than Letters of a Woman Homesteader but why bother writing your own review when the author provides one herself?

“I have experienced about all the human emotions. I had not expected to encounter so many people or to get the little inside glimpses that I've had, but wherever there are human beings there are the little histories. I have come home realizing anew how happy I am, how much I have been spared, and how many of life's blessings are mine.”

Marie S. says

Intrinsically those letters are not bad, they are not just as charming as Letters From a Woman Homesteader was.

It might be that we meet so many people and we spend just a few pages with them, that we don't have time to care for them.

Joanne says

This is a hard time of year for me. The anniversary of my husband's death approaches, and I get sad and wistful. This was the perfect book. It got me up and about, scrubbing the house and feeling better about things. I hated the hunting scenes, but not too many homesteaders went in for the vegetarian thing.

Sarah says

The sequel to Letters from a Woman Homesteader. After Elinore's former boss nicely got her letters published to some acclaim, Elinore wrote up a new batch more intended for publication. This is a great follow-up. I couldn't quite believe how many things could happen in one trip. But it seemed like loads of fun.

Linda Hart says

Absolutely delightful, easy read, collection of true life experiences on a 4 month elk hunt in 1914. Highly recommend.

Pirate says

I was happy to find another book by Mrs. Stewart, although I had some trepidation about the subject in the title. And while they do eventually get to hunt and it is described in matter-of-fact detail, it's not what was most memorable to me.

What I liked best (told through a series of letters from Mrs. Stewart to her friend back east) was seeing the relationships sustained between the homesteaders. As they traveled to and from the hunt, the hunting party depended upon the kindness of strangers -- and always found it. What a charming way of life. And yet, still very rough. I cannot imagine camping with small children in the snow!

All in all, it's a very nice "slice of life" book.

Kris Irvin says

Not nearly as good as Letters From a Woman Homesteader, but still worth a read. This book will make you want to go camping in the high mountains of Wyoming. It made me yearn to be a homesteader/pioneer myself, but I would have died and also, I love indoor plumbing.

Judy says

Another really fantastic read. I picked this up immediately I finished the "Letters of a Woman Homesteader" and have enjoyed every minute of going on a community excursion into hunting even wilder country to hunt for Elk. Not only for recreation and diversion, as modern day hunting is, even though the entire experience added layers of enjoyment and variety to these pioneers hard lives, but to lay aside a source of meat for the winter ahead.

You get so many glimpses into the daily existence and daily toil of these folk. And again I found myself wondering if I would be up to making a success of such a life. Or would it just be too hard for us soft, modern-day folk.

Is it factual reporting, or does the writer add her own embellishments to bring her experiences to life and full colour for her friend who is the recipient of these letters? Who cares. It is some of the most enjoyable reading I have done in a while.

Martin Porter says

Fabulous book - and a free Kindle download. What is most striking, if you believe this to be fact, is the extraordinary bravery and adventurousness of the protagonist.

Helen says

Engaging sequel to *Letters of a Woman Homesteader*, this follows Elinore Pruitt Stewart on a winter hunt for elk.

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