

Praise for [A Wilder Rose](#), by Susan Wittig Albert

From Janet Spaeth, author of *Laura Ingalls Wilder* (Twayne's United States Authors Series)

How to describe the relationship between Laura Ingalls Wilder and Rose Wilder Lane? As Facebook would say, "It's complicated."

They were, of course, mother and daughter, a relationship that shadowed every interaction they had and which, Susan Wittig Albert posits in her novel, *A Wilder Rose*, was responsible for the veneer of myth that overlaid all of the Little House books. It was remarkable, people noted, that a woman in her 60s, who had written primarily for newspapers and regional publications, would be able to craft a series of novels that captured so completely the pioneer experience of the Midwest. It was a success story that touched Americans' hearts as fully as the story of Laura and Mary and Ma and Pa did.

But was it real? Had this talent simply been latent while Laura Ingalls Wilder went about her daily business of being a farmer's wife? Had Rose Wilder Lane, a recognized writer of the 1920s, inherited her vast talent from her mother? Or, as we began to find out as research materials became available to scholars, was perhaps the talent behind the Little House books, at the very least, a complete collaboration, or—as many have come to believe—that of Rose herself, who ended up being the hidden author?

How much can we attribute to Rose? We will never know. However, Albert has written a compelling novel that lays out a very plausible version of the events leading to each of the Little House books. Both Laura and Rose are fully created characters, with complex motivations that—here's the main point—make sense. There is not a single wrong note in the creation of this novel. *It all makes sense.*

The book itself is a joy to read. The descriptions are lyrical and perfect, and the setting comes to life. The characters are fully formed. Rose is a complex and talented woman, and her interests in politics and love as well as writing are interwoven expertly.

Supplemental materials are included at the end of the novel, encouraging its use in book clubs, encouraging further study.

This is an amazingly engrossing story, and I recommend it heartily.