



The Silver Star: A Novel

By Jeannette Walls

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From the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Glass Castle*, Jeannette Walls' gripping new novel that "transports us with her powerful storytelling...She contemplates the extraordinary bravery needed to confront real-life demons in a world where the hardest thing to do may be to not run away" (*O, The Oprah Magazine*).

It is 1970 in a small town in California. "Bean" Holladay is twelve and her sister, Liz, is fifteen when their artistic mother, Charlotte, takes off to find herself, leaving her girls enough money to last a month or two. When Bean returns from school one day and sees a police car outside the house, she and Liz decide to take the bus to Virginia, where their widowed Uncle Tinsley lives in the decaying mansion that's been in Charlotte's family for generations.

An impetuous optimist, Bean soon discovers who her father was, and hears stories about why their mother left Virginia in the first place. Money is tight, and the sisters start babysitting and doing office work for Jerry Maddox, foreman of the mill in town, who bullies his workers, his tenants, his children, and his wife. Liz is whip-smart—an inventor of word games, reader of Edgar Allan Poe, nonconformist. But when school starts in the fall, it's Bean who easily adjusts, and Liz who becomes increasingly withdrawn. And then something happens to Liz in the car with Maddox.

Jeannette Walls has written a deeply moving novel about triumph over adversity and about people who find a way to love each other and the world, despite its flaws and injustices.

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The Silver Star: A Novel By Jeannette Walls Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Being a single mother is never easy, but for Charlotte Holladay, a wannabe folk singer in 1970, raising her 15- and 12-year-old daughters, Liz and Jean (aka “Bean”), is more than she can handle. Known for dropping out when things get tough, Charlotte’s latest spell of parental abandonment attracts police attention and the girls flee California rather than face being placed in foster care. A cross-country bus trip lands them on the doorstep of their only relative, the previously unmet Uncle Tinsley, and their arrival proves to be as much of a shock for the reclusive widower as it is for the girls themselves. As the trio learns to coexist, Liz and Bean try to fit into the small southern town. With money tight, they land jobs with mill foreman Jerry Maddox, an overbearing brute who runs roughshod over the town’s residents and takes advantage of Liz’s trusting nature, with devastating results. Readers familiar with Walls’ backstory from her luminous memoir, *The Glass Castle* (2005), will recognize elements of her personal history in this captivating, read-in-one-sitting, coming-of-age adventure. --Carol Haggas

Review

“At heart Walls is a wonderful yarn-spinner...This is a page-turner, built for hammock or beach reading.” (Karen Valby *Entertainment Weekly*)

“Walls is adept at steeping her characters in some intense, old-fashioned drama...*The Silver Star* is a lovely, moving novel with an appealing narrator in Bean.” (Carmela Ciuraru *USA Today*)

“Walls writes with easy assurance about Liz and Bean, proving in fiction as she did in her memoir, *The Glass Castle*, that she knows children’s hearts—as well as the evil that can lurk in the hearts of grown-ups.” (*Parade*)

“Walls writes with the paired-down incisiveness of a memoirist looking for the significance of every incident, but it’s the way she draws Bean, so strong even in the face of all the additional challenges that come with her age, gender, and innocence, that will make this book a hit with readers.” (Nicholas Mancusi *The Daily Beast*)

Walls has written yet another gripping story of a courageous and sensible girl surviving the adults around her.” (Holly Silva *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*)

“Told with a balanced, yet whimsical, voice of insight and awareness...[*The Silver Star*] is set during the Nixon ‘70s and Vietnam War, and the author adeptly evokes the tumultuous era in the narrative without letting it overwhelm the primary thread of Bean’s coming-of-age adventures.” (S. Kirk Walsh *San Francisco Chronicle*)

“Absorbing...” (*People*)

“A polished work of fiction...Engaging...Fans will find echoes of her coruscating family chronicle that first struck a chord with readers in 2005, but *The Silver Star* is the novel of a more confident, mature and calculating writer...[an] atmospheric bildungsroman of adolescent passage, changing times and bent but unbroken family bonds.” (Jane Sumner *Dallas Morning News*)

“Great writing...An absorbing, unsentimental tale of childhood.” (Chelsea Cain *The New York Times Book*

Review)

“A great spirit comes through *The Silver Star*...Jeannette Walls knows how to make characters pop off the page (and tear your heart out in the process.)” (Angela Mattano *Campus Circle Magazine*)

“With immense charm and warmth, Walls, the author of *The Glass Castle*, has created a lively account of kids finding a way to thrive in the absence of reliable parents.” (*Real Simple*)

“Jeannette Walls transports us with her powerful storytelling...Using Bean’s expertly crafted, naively stubborn voice, Walls contemplates the extraordinary bravery needed to confront real-life demons in a world where the hardest thing to do may be to not run away.” (Abbe Wright *O, the Oprah magazine*)

“Jeannette Walls is a master at her craft. In the same way she spoke candidly of her own parents’ shortcomings in *The Glass Castle*, in *The Silver Star* she lends this candid voice to Bean, and captures the inner workings of an adolescent’s mind perfectly....*The Silver Star* stands strong as its own story, wholly unique and wholly captivating.” (Kristin Fritz *EverydayEbook.com*)

“Walls’ writing is lively and her dialogue crips, and the girls’ struggles with their mother ring true.” (Margaret Quamme *The Columbus Dispatch*)

“[*The Silver Star* is] an examination of bad parenting and resilient children in a rich and complex setting. Bean is a compelling character, and it is fascinating to watch her ideas about both her mother and her sister change as the book progresses.” (Sarah Rachel Egelman *Bookreporter.com*)

“Walls writes with equal tenderness for her most beloved characters and the least among them. It takes a compassionate soul to find the beauty in despair and that’s what Walls does best.” (Amy MacKinnon *The Patriot Ledger*)

“Jeannette Walls jumps off the memoir train and hitches a ride on the novel form with *The Silver Star*.” (Elissa Schappell *Vanity Fair*)

“[A] captivating, read-in-one-sitting, coming-of-age adventure.” (*Booklist*)

“When Bean reads *To Kill a Mockingbird* in school, she seems like a long-lost cousin to Scout...She makes for a strong and spunky protagonist.” (*Publishers Weekly*)

“Walls turns what could have been another sentimental girl-on-the-run-finds-home cliché into a fresh consideration of both adolescence and the South on the cusp of major social change.” (*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review))

“[A] moving book...With relatable characters and a plot that can both rend and heal hearts, *The Silver Star* is a captivating novel.” (Elizabeth Reid *Deseret News*)

“Walls weaves a story of triumph and justice.” (*Everett Herald*)

About the Author

Jeannette Walls graduated from Barnard College and was a journalist in New York. Her memoir, *The Glass Castle*, has been a *New York Times* bestseller for more than six years. She is also the author of the instant *New York Times* bestsellers *The Silver Star* and *Half Broke Horses*, which was named one of the ten best

books of 2009 by the editors of *The New York Times Book Review*. Walls lives in rural Virginia with her husband, the writer John Taylor.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Frances Carlton:

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Hazel Polk:

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Annetta Doucette:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition of information. Even you love *The Silver Star: A Novel*, you can enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its named reading friends.

Arthur Fabry:

In this time globalization it is important to someone to obtain information. The information will make a professional understand the condition of the world. The healthiness of the world makes the information better to share. You can find a lot of sources to get information example: internet, classifieds, book, and soon. You can view that now, a lot of publisher this print many kinds of book. The actual book that recommended for you is *The Silver Star: A Novel* this e-book consist a lot of the information with the condition of this world now. This kind of book was represented how can the world has grown up. The words styles that writer value to explain it is easy to understand. The particular writer made some analysis when he makes this book. This is why this book ideal all of you.

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