

## HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

...VOLUME 5: NUMBER 9.....SEPTEMBER 2010

### Parent- and Child-hood

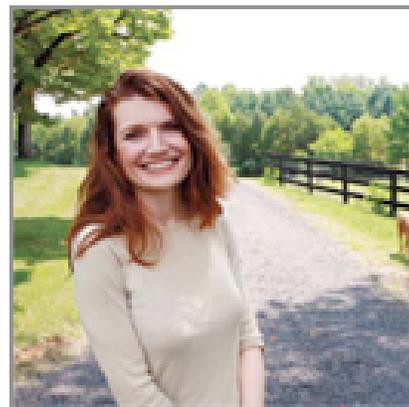
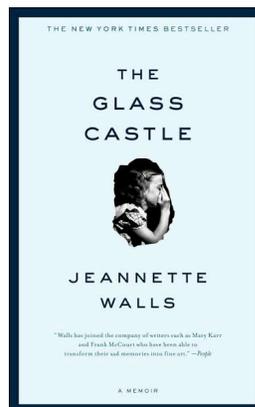
For people of the boomer generation childhood had changed quite a bit by the time they got to revisit it from the other side as parents. Whereas boomers can remember the kind of benign neglect that allowed hours of unsupervised play in what were regarded as safe neighborhood streets, the next generations have been ever more closely guarded till the point where the term “helicopter parents” is an apt description. This month we feature a startling true account of the experience and the effects of parenting from the other extreme.

### Featured This Month:

#### **The Glass Castle – a Memoir** by *Jeannette Walls*

This award winning memoir is the revelation of a daughter and her three siblings growing up with nomadic parents who at times were great teachers and at other times hopeless dreamers. The parents, Rose Mary and Rex, were both extraordinarily intelligent, but lacked common sense and compassion; the mother, a self-centered artist who would buy canvas and paints for her artwork when the cupboards were bare and a father who dreamed of building his glass castle but spent much of his time looking for the next drink. Under the guise of a “great new adventure” the family “skedaddled” from one hovel to the next, from the deserts of the southwest to a West Virginia coal mining town. The family at most times was destitute, existing only on a monthly check from a Texas ranch marked “for grazing rights”, the mysterious check being occasionally intercepted by Rex to be spent on a new scheme or liquor.

The children learned to fend for themselves by digging through trash containers in the school cafeteria for food, defending one another from the fights and teasing of other children, collecting coal scraps that had fallen from passing trucks and carts for heat. In one instance, the author relates coloring



spots on her skin with markers to disguise the holes in her clothing.

Through all of the neglect and shame, the author surprisingly harbors no ill feelings. The children adored their father and his dreams and though embarrassed by their mother still loved her. The youngest was the only child to display any emotional problems as an adult. The author is now a regular contributor to MSNBC, her brother is a police officer and older sister is a successful freelance artist.

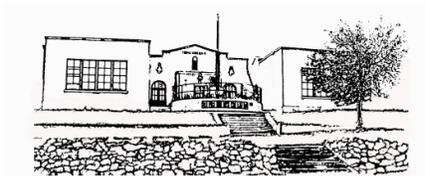
Rose Mary was still living at the time this memoir was published, residing in an abandoned apartment complex in New York City with other homeless and dumpster diving for her next meal.

I challenge anyone to read this memoir and aver that their childhood was worse. These days one hears the phrase “dysfunctional family”. This story defines dysfunctional.

*Review by Robbin Brodsky*

### Notes from the Library Board

The Annual Fund Drive is on! Now’s the time to show your support for your Library and to keep up all the important services the Library offers to the community. Please re-up your membership next time you visit or mail it in to PO Box 205, Hillsboro. Remember that your membership contribution is tax deductible.



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### New at the Library

#### Mystery

**Claws and Effect** by Rita Mae Brown and Sneaky Pie Brown  
**Whisker of Evil** by Rita Mae Brown and Sneaky Pie Brown  
**Death Song: A Kevin Kerney Novel** by Michael McGarrity  
**Lucky's Lady** by Tami Hoag  
**Bookwoman's Last Fling** by John Dunning  
**Sarah's Key** by Tatiana de Rosnay  
**The Double Comfort Safari Club** by Alexander McCall Smith

#### Non-fiction

**Blind Side** by Michael Lewis  
**Liar's Poker** by Michael Lewis  
**Encyclopedia of Ships** edited by Chris Marshall  
**Bicycling Magazine's Complete Guide to Bicycle Maintenance and Repair**  
**A Glossary of the Construction, Decoration and Use of Arms and Armor in All Countries and in All Times**

#### Fiction

**Ford County** by John Grisham  
**The Man in My Basement** by Walter Mosley  
**The Bonesetter's Daughter** by Amy Tan  
**The Art of Racing in the Rain** by Garth Stein

#### Classics

**To Kill a Mockingbird** by Harper Lee

#### Films on DVD

**The Crucible**  
**Emma**  
**It Could Happen to You**  
**Ready to Wear**

For a complete listing of Library materials, visit  
<http://www.hillsborocommunitylibrary.com>

News and notices and an archive of the monthly newsletters are also available online.

#### Library Hours:

**Earlier Tuesday and Thursday Hours  
will Continue!**

Sunday & Monday: closed  
Tues. 5:30 - 7:30pm Wed. 1:00 - 4:00pm  
Thurs: 5:30 - 7:30pm Fri: 10:00am - 1:00pm  
Saturday 10:00am-2:00pm

#### Bookmobile: Wednesday, September 22

Hillsboro: 1:00 - 2:00pm Kingston: 2:30-3:30pm

#### Published by

THE HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY  
P.O. BOX 205, HILLSBORO NM 88042 (575-895-3349)