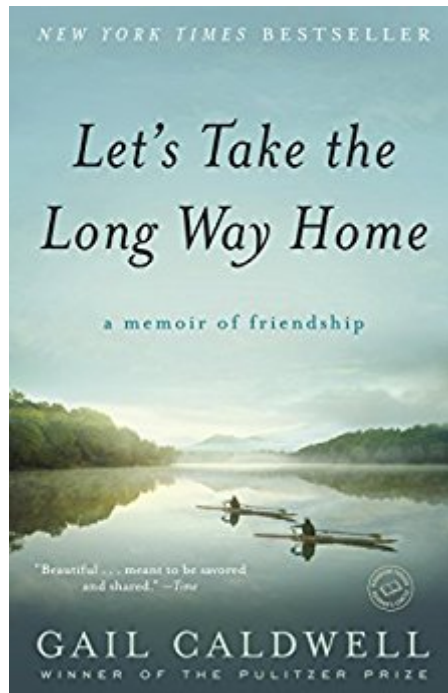




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# **Let's Take The Long Way Home: A Memoir Of Friendship**



## Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMESÃ A BESTSELLERThey met over their dogs. Gail Caldwell and Caroline Knapp (author ofÃ A Drinking: A Love Story)Ã A became best friends, talking about everything from their love of books and their shared history of a struggle with alcohol to their relationships with men. Walking the woods of New England and rowing on the Charles River, these two private, self-reliant women created an attachment more profound than either of them could ever have foreseen. Then, several years into this remarkable connection, Knapp was diagnosed with cancer. With her signature exquisite prose, Caldwell mines the deepest levels of devotion, and courage in this gorgeous memoir about treasuring a best friend, and coming of age in midlife.Ã A LetÃ A Take the Long Way HomeÃ A is a celebration of the profound transformations that come from intimate connectionÃ A and it affirms, once again, why Gail Caldwell is recognized as one of our bravest and most honest literary voices. Look for special features inside. Join the Circle for author chats and more. RandomHouseReadersCircle.com BONUS: This edition includes an excerpt from Gail Caldwell's New Life, No Instructions.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I picked this up on a total whim. No past relationship with the author's works. I literally just wanted a memoir about friendship. Maybe I was feeling sentimental about growing up or something. I have no idea. It was perfect for me. It was a great intersection of humor, dogs, and hardship. Totally relatable, easy to read, great for just pondering your own relationships and friendships.

I have had several "best friends" in my life. As we have lived and grown and separated by circumstances, there always comes another "best friend". This book describes the love and connection I have felt over the years. Now I am in my senior years and look back at the losses I have experienced....family members, friends, and beloved four legged loved ones. This book puts into words those feelings, and I relived grief...and felt more deeply the losses....it has helped me move on and understand my self and my ability to love....still. Thank you.

This is a truly a wonderful book! It the author's story about her friendship with Caroline Knapp, author of "Drinking, A Love Story", who tragically died in 2002 from cancer. The book shows how two women from very different backgrounds, become like family over their mutual love of dogs, rowing and writing. They give each other strength, hope, love, laughter, and in the end, a courage that Gail Caldwell still carries with her. I think this book would be a wonderful read for any person who cherishes their female friends, it will also appeal to animal lovers, especially dog lovers.

Warning: have a box of Kleenex handy, its not just Caroline's death that will move you to tears. It's the best book I've read in a long time, I couldn't put it down.

Loved this book. I'd read about it somewhere and immediately got it. A really touching story. Though you know what's going to happen from the beginning, it still gets you when it comes up. It made me wish for such a close friendship.

This is one of the most skillfully written books I have ever read. It took me to places in my heart I had forgotten existed. Feelings wereresurrected I thought I had healed. Caldwell so aptly expresses what I've never been able to put into words. This book truly consumes thereader.

Very well and beautifully written account of love and friendship . I am always drawn to stories involving dogs, as the owner of two large labs. Four stars -there are areas I've difficulty getting my head around.

Touchingly beautiful and well written memoir honoring the precious intangible gifts of friendship. It is the things we have in common that make us friends to start, but in the end it is more. It is what you don't have in common that fills the holes and gaps and lifts you when you need it most. Descriptively capturing from its first paragraphs to its end. She speaks of her personal struggles with addiction, redemption and the navigation of life through the lens of grief. Read it with my elderly dog at my side. Tissues required. No greater gifts than a dear friends and good dogs. I hope Tula will star I her own story some day.

A dear friend of mine, who is also a writer and an avid reader, sent this book to me as a gift. Even though it started out slowly, I could see why my friend thought so highly of this memoir to share it with me. It is quite literary and personal; there are passages in the book that are beautifully written. But the story really hooked me when the author began to share her own experience with alcoholism. It was then that I was completely drawn into her world and could see the naked honesty in which she revealed what it's like to live a dual existence - the dedicated professional and the insecure drinker who could never leave town with out hefty provisions of booze. The relationship between the two authors became more real to me after that; I was able to understand and feel the profound bonds she had alluded to earlier. It also explained her deep desire for solitude and why finding, and then losing, someone who fit her character and experiences so perfectly had such a profound effect on her life. This memoir has a lot to offer and I would strongly recommend it to anyone looking for a tale of friendship, heartache and triumph.

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