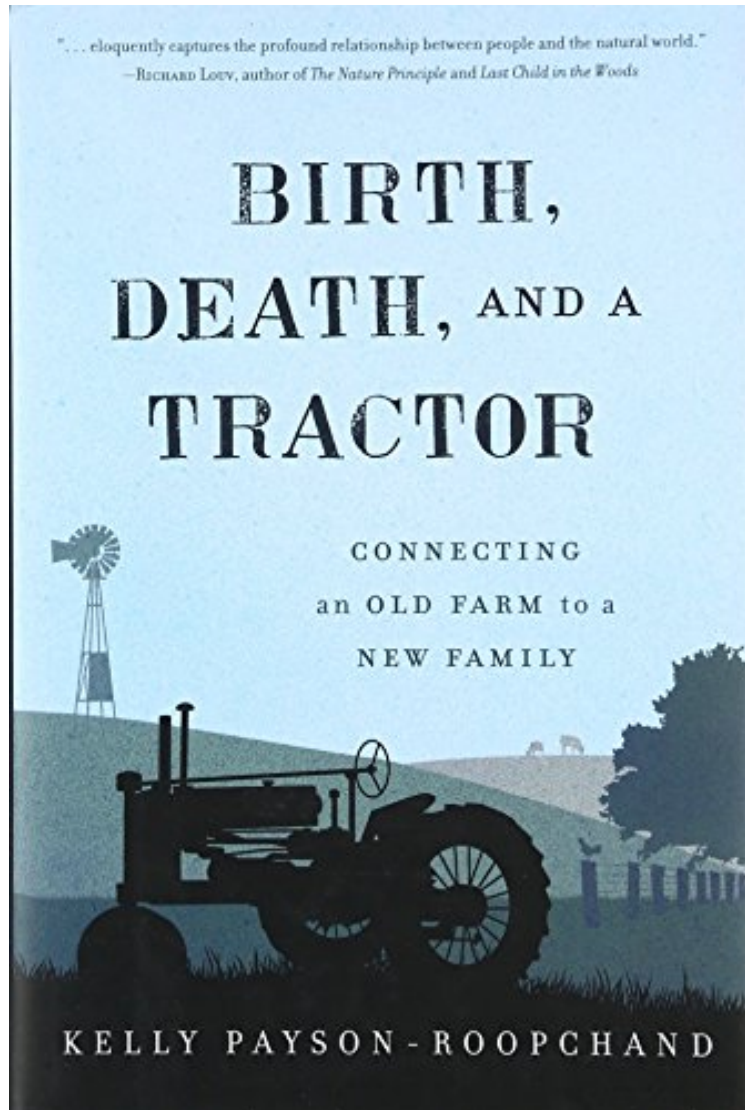


Birth, Death, and a Tractor: Connecting An Old Farm To a New Family

Kelly Payson-Roopchand

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#1351664 in Books 2015-06-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.21 x .79 x 6.251, .0 #File Name: 160893411X256 pages | File size: 74.Mb

Kelly Payson-Roopchand : Birth, Death, and a Tractor: Connecting An Old Farm To a New Family before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Birth, Death, and a Tractor: Connecting An Old Farm To a New Family:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. PARADISE FOUND By Stephanie P This engaging story chronicles the history of a small family farm in Maine - from its wilderness beginnings in the early 1800s through 6 generations,

and the transfer to a new family filled with hopes dreams. The historical documentation history of early Maine farming is impressive. Interwoven with the historical story is a month by month chronicle of one year in the new farm family's struggles to make it a successful venture - lyrically interweaving joy, love appreciation of place. An aspect of the book that I appreciate is the footnote placement at the end of each chapter, making referring to them easy without interrupting the flow or having to refer to the end of the book. A conventional genealogy would have helped me to clarify the cost of characters in which several of the same names are repeated in subsequent generations. Here is the author considering with her husband their shared dream of becoming farmers: "We were at first embarrassed to admit our dream, as if we were betraying our training. Everybody knew that farmers worked themselves to the bone but made no money. Yet why, oh why, if the rewards were so small, the work so unstimulating, did generations of farmers persist, even when there were other options? Why did they continue to lead small lives, tied to a piece of land with purse strings forever tight, bone-tired in the evening and often still weary in the morning? Nobody seemed to know - or had they forgotten? - the joys of working the land, of life bounded only by the sky, of piling plates with food that they had harvested. Perhaps farmers did not need as much money to feed their hungry souls, perhaps the work itself was fulfilling, and a tired body felt good at the end of the day." I look forward to enjoying the next book from this talented young author.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Inspirational and Moving Lives of Farmers
By matt8386
Author Kelly Payson-Roopchand has really captured the essence of the life and challenges small farmers face, past and present. She interweaves the history of the original owners of the farm she and her husband purchased with her own thoughts, observations and experiences with great eloquence. This book is part diary, genealogy of the Hewett family and oral history written with a poetic flair. I'm not exaggerating on this every fiber of her being loves what she is doing which is described beautifully. The recipes included add a touch of humor and flavor to the book, pun intended. It's clear that for her family, the hard work, the sacrifices made are all worth for the exchanges of living with the earth, care taking of the farm and simple, natural existence. She's proud of being able to continue the rich traditions of past farmers and rightly so. Anyone familiar with farming will recognize the rhythm of the seasons and the authenticity of the feelings Payson-Roopchand has. Excellent, inspirational and motivating reading. Highly recommended for all.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I felt like had been sitting at her kitchen table
By debra morgan
I was so excited to get this book, as the Author graduated from Prescott College. As an Alumni from the College, I knew that the writing would be engaging, stories would be from the heart and that her feelings would be portrayed. After reading, I felt like had been sitting at her kitchen table, hearing the stories from family and friends. Great book, I would love the opportunity to travel to the farm and meet them all. Nice job Kelly, you make us proud.

IndieFab Book of the Year Award Winner! Maine Literary Award Winner!
What happens when the last son leaves the farm, and the farmer grows old? Do the stories of six generations whisper into silence, as dust darkens the windows of the empty barn? Or can a young boy, running in yellow boots through abandoned fields, bring new life back to the farm? There is much to explore, and time to wonder. There is also, for a short while, a gentle old man, atop a faded John Deere tractor, and the possibility of connection... An unforgettable true story of history and hope on a small family farm in Somerville, Maine, from its settling in the early 1800s to its perilous transfer to a new farm family in 2008. Chronicling the history of seven generations, it is a reminder of the role small farms have played in our national and family histories, and a challenge to find innovative ways to re-connect our communities to this rich but threatened resource.

Kelly Payson-Roopchand, with her elegant account of life on one small farm in Somerville, Maine, *Birth, Death, and a Tractor: Connecting an Old Farm to a New Family* deftly intersperses her family's first years establishing a goat dairy with stories of the six previous generations who worked the land. . . . This blend of memoir and agricultural history is shot through with poetry and philosophy. . . . *Birth, Death, and a Tractor* abounds with the joys of simple living and connection to land and community. (Foreword s)
About the Author
Kelly Payson-Roopchand farms and writes at the end of the road in Somerville, Maine. As a Fulbright Fellow, she researched small farms in Trinidad, returning home with her own Trini farmer, her amazing husband Anil. With their two children Keiran and Sarita, Kelly and Anil are reviving a six-generation family farm, giving Kelly ample material to write about. To learn more about life on Pumpkin Vine Family Farm, visit them at pumpkinvinefamilyfarm.com or connect with them on Facebook.