



## Let's Take the Long Way Home: A Memoir of Friendship

By Gail Caldwell

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**Let's Take the Long Way Home: A Memoir of Friendship** By Gail Caldwell

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

They met over their dogs. Gail Caldwell and Caroline Knapp (author of *Drinking: A Love Story*) 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. *Let's Take the Long Way Home* is a celebration of the profound transformations that come from intimate connection—and it affirms, once again, why Gail Caldwell is recognized as one of our bravest and most honest literary voices.

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## Let's Take the Long Way Home: A Memoir of Friendship By Gail Caldwell Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

**Amazon Best Books of the Month, August 2010:** "The flaw is the thing we love." Of all the passages worthy of dog-eared (or highlighting) in *Let's Take the Long Way Home* (and there are many), this one is the most powerful wellspring. It captures the very thing we hope to find in friendship: a person who admires and cares for us not in spite of our flaws, but in acceptance of them, as part and parcel of who we are. For Gail Caldwell and Caroline Knapp--two intensely driven, talented writers who found in each other an uncannily similar share of life experiences and ambitions--loving the flaws became a cornerstone of their friendship. This is a beautiful story of the best things about best friends: shared rituals and private jokes, long walks (in this case, with their dearly loved dogs) and longer talks, confessions and discoveries. It would be wrong to say that their friendship ended with Caroline's unexpected death, because it so obviously lives and breathes in the rich and wonderful tapestry of stories told here. --Anne Bartholomew

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Caldwell (*A Strong West Wind*) has managed to do the inexpressible in this quiet, fierce work: create a memorable offering of love to her best friend, Caroline Knapp, the writer (*Drinking: A Love Story*) who died of lung cancer at age 42 in 2002. The two met in the mid-1990s: "Finding Caroline was like placing a personal ad for an imaginary friend, then having her show up at your door funnier and better than you had conceived." Both single, writers (Caldwell was then book critic for the *Boston Globe*), and living alone in the Cambridge area, the two women bonded over their dog runs in Fresh Pond Reservoir, traded lessons in rowing (Knapp's sport) and swimming (Caldwell's), and shared stories, clothes, and general life support as best friends. Moreover, both had stopped drinking at age 33 (Caldwell was eight years older than her friend); both had survived early traumas (Caldwell had had polio as a child; Knapp had suffered anorexia). Their attachment to each other was deeply, mutually satisfying, as Caldwell describes: "Caroline and I coaxed each other into the light." Yet Knapp's health began to falter in March 2002, with stage-four lung cancer diagnosed; by June she had died. Caldwell is unflinching in depicting her friend's last days, although her own grief nearly undid her; she writes of this desolating time with tremendously moving grace. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Described as a "love letter of a memoir" (*Christian Science Monitor*), a "book-length elegy" (*Cleveland Plain Dealer*), and "a gorgeous and extended prayer of mourning" (*Boston Globe*), Caldwell's uplifting and devastating story drew multiple comparisons to grief's current gold standard--Joan Didion's *The Year of Magical Thinking* (\*\*\*\* Selection Jan/Feb 2006). However, Caldwell doesn't dwell on her pain in agonizing detail. Instead, she luminously evokes the joys of friendship, deftly sidestepping any hint of cliché or melodrama. Although the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* reluctantly declared that Knapp never truly comes to life, most critics agreed with the *Washington Post*: "Her memoir, a tribute to the enduring power of friendship, is a lovely gift to readers."

### Users Review

From reader reviews:

### **Elizabeth Frizzell:**

Do you considered one of people who can't read pleasant if the sentence chained within the straightway, hold on guys this specific aren't like that. This Let's Take the Long Way Home: A Memoir of Friendship book is readable by you who hate those perfect word style. You will find the facts here are arrange for enjoyable looking at experience without leaving actually decrease the knowledge that want to supply to you. The writer connected with Let's Take the Long Way Home: A Memoir of Friendship content conveys the idea easily to understand by many individuals. The printed and e-book are not different in the content but it just different as it. So , do you still thinking Let's Take the Long Way Home: A Memoir of Friendship is not loveable to be your top list reading book?

### **Rosalie Lloyd:**

The reserve with title Let's Take the Long Way Home: A Memoir of Friendship has a lot of information that you can discover it. You can get a lot of advantage after read this book. That book exist new understanding the information that exist in this e-book represented the condition of the world today. That is important to yo7u to find out how the improvement of the world. This particular book will bring you within new era of the syndication. You can read the e-book in your smart phone, so you can read this anywhere you want.

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### **Dorothy Saunders:**

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