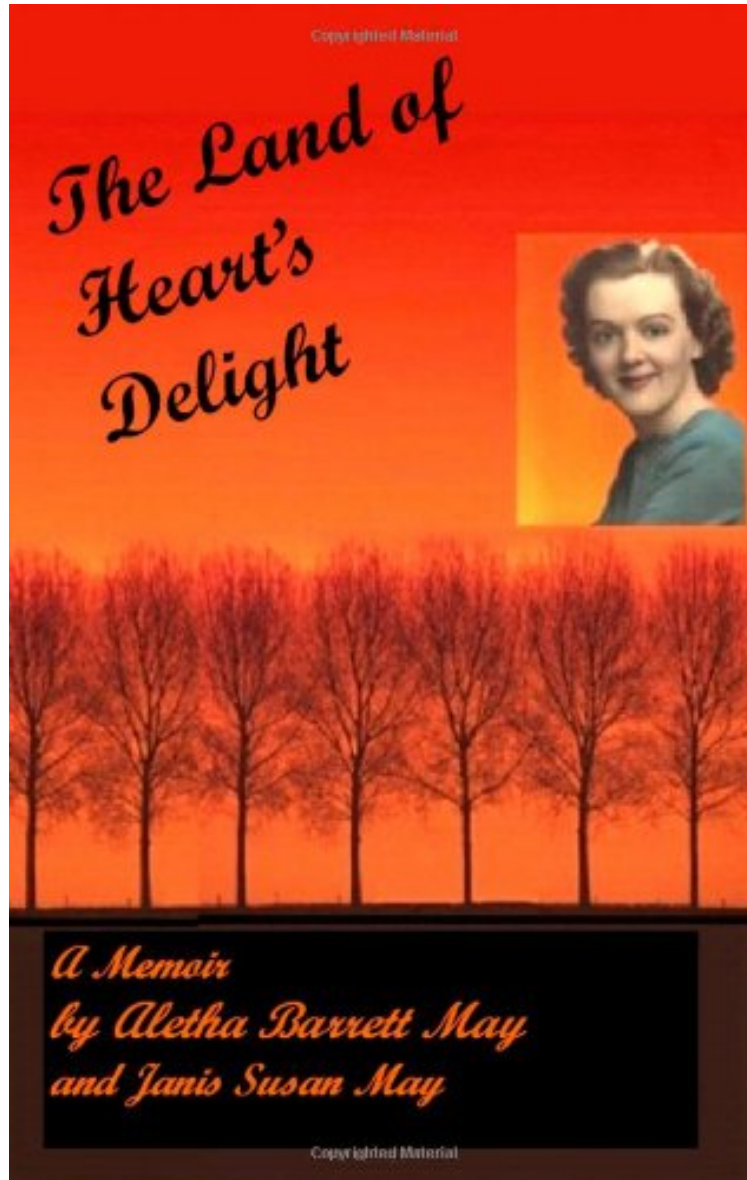


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The Land of Heart's Delight

Aletha Barrett May, Janis Susan May
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Aletha Barrett May, Janis Susan May : The Land of Heart's Delight before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Land of Heart's Delight:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four years of varied experiencesBy Sharon Tabor WarrenThis is the touching memoir of Aletha Barrett May written by her daughter Janis Susan May. It chronicles four years of Aletha's life in South Texas while she served as a County Home Demonstration Agent. Her experiences range from teaching

canning; a three-week visit to Mexico when travel was not commonplace and less so for single women; driving through a herd of Texas steers and a swarm of frogs; to an attempted sexual assault. It is a must-read for anyone interested in South Texas, the social requirements of a single woman in a small town with no entertainment and life in the U.S. during WWII. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I knew her as a wife and the mother of my BGF. By Carole Hinegardner I loved reading this book, and I sent it to my mother. Janis Susan May was my best girlfriend in grade school- so it was nice to read about her mom and see her as a person and not a mom. I had forgotten how beautiful she and handsome Don were, that has been almost 50 years ago. Wonderful to connect to author, again, after 39 years. A good sense of the time and place, well written and an easy quick read. Susan made you feel the place and look under the sofa for snakes. Only lacking some of her recipes, she was a good cook and could play the heck out of "Turkey in the Straw" on the piano. (my favorite in 5th grade)

When she went to South Texas as a County Home Demonstration Agent in 1940, Aletha Barrett was in culture shock. Raised in the gently rolling green farmland of Northeast Texas, Aletha was unprepared for the vast sandy expanses and different societies she found there. From unearthing baby rattlesnakes to exploring the unknown spiciness of Mexican food, every day was a learning experience. Ever an adventurer, Aletha ventured deep into Mexico when it was largely unknown to North Americans. Over the course of several trips she witnessed what might have been a murder in Mexico City, endured the then-perilous Pan-American Highway at the mercy of a drunken bus driver and stayed in Acapulco when it was a tiny village with just two hotels. In later years, after marrying and having a family, Aletha always said she was going to write a book about her life in South Texas, but somehow the right time never came. After Aletha's death, her daughter Janis Susan May, a writer and novelist, was going through her papers and found an outline, some notes and a rudimentary chapter or two. Janis Susan had been raised on her mother's stories and knew them by heart, so working from the notes she completed the book. It was, she says, the best testament she could envision to the memory of a remarkable woman.