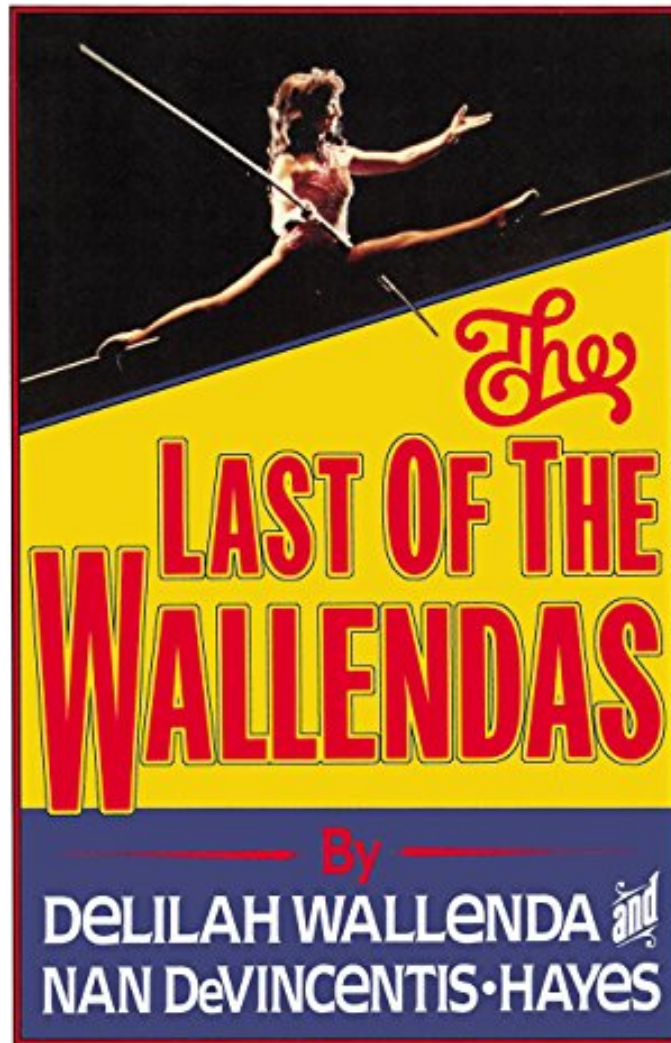


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The Last of the Wallendas

D. Wallenda

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D. Wallenda : The Last of the Wallendas before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Last of the Wallendas:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyable readBy CraigCI am horrified of heights and several of the stories really tensed me up.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Miricles and Mastery of Wire WalkingBy Heather HogbenThis book was written from the heart. You were allowed a look into their lives. My husband could not put it down. He read the whole book. That is saying something as he is a skimmer :-), of books.You learned the good, bad and the ugly of a family. They pray together and stay together. Exciting life and we would one day love to meet Delilah. My husband is already planning it for next year. This is how impressed he was with this book. What a family,

what a faith, what a story! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good ReadBy CarolLoved this book, I really enjoyed this book ! I also liked all the pictures and the family tree. After reading this book I looked for more books on this amazing family. I didn't find many but I always check to see if there's anything new released or in the process of being released ! I recommend this to anyone who likes adventure !

The "Great Wallendas" was one of the most famous daredevil circus acts in history. The Last of the Wallendas is Delilah Wallenda's personal, colorful and poignant story of circus life, her eccentric grandfather Karl and a family wracked by headline tragedies. She brings us behind closed doors to see the Wallendas' fights, affairs, divorces, bigamy, suicides and insanity throughout the years. Delilah Wallenda tells the inside story of how Karl created and performed the dangerous seven-person human pyramid, then lived with the high wire tragedy that left his son-in-law and nephew dead and his adopted son permanently paralyzed. She reveals how Karl's death and its consequences affected his family and her own subsequent fight to save the circus. Delilah has gained fame as the only woman to perform Karl's stunts, taking over from her mother, Jenny, who quit performing because of Karl's obsession to perform "the seven." She continues in the Wallenda tradition, performing on the high wire and continuing to thrill audiences.

From Publishers Weekly Writing with DeVincentis-Hayes, who teaches English literature at the University of Maryland, the granddaughter of highwire walker Karl Wallenda tells the story of her family's generations-long involvement in circus acrobatics and her career as keeper of the heritage. Although that heritage has included private tragedies, family feuds, bitter divorces and numerous performance-related deaths and maimings, the inherited compulsion to dare the heights was so strong that Delilah chose to honor her grandfather, who perfected the "seven-man pyramid," by becoming a skywalker herself. She acknowledges that her childhood was confused, her apprenticeship harsh, yet she and her children carry on the tradition of highwire performance even now, when the circus's glory days are long past. Unfortunately, her tangled history of this extended family and its unique obsession unfolds in undistinguished prose that lacks the pungent ambience of circus life. 20,000 first printing; author tour. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus sHigh-sighing story of the great high-wire artists, told by the granddaughter of legendary trapeze-artist Karl Wallenda and by journalist DeVincentis-Hayes (People, Redbook, etc.). Now that the Wallendas have dwindled down to a precious few, the remaining legally named Wallendas have wrangled with the author about her use of the Wallenda name in her high-wire act--for her mother was Wallenda's child by a woman he married after a Mexican divorce from his first wife, a divorce that the US failed to recognize. "I walk the wire because it's in my blood," she says, and, with several thrilling moments, her story shows just how and why high-wire walking gets into your blood if you're a Wallenda. Leader of the pack was grandfather Karl, who insisted on topping himself with ever more dangerous acts. He seems to have been his own worst enemy, harboring one great dream: to skywalk Niagara Falls. But New York State doesn't allow high-wire acts without a net, so Karl invented the seven-man pyramid, in which six men form a pyramid with a woman sitting in a chair on top--an act so dangerous that no one else on earth dared do it. The Wallendas handled it safely for 16 years until, one day in Detroit, the strain overcame one member, leaving two dead and one paralyzed. But Karl survived and soon was back building the pyramid: Courage is all to the Wallendas. Fate caught up with him in Puerto Rico, however, when a poorly guyed wire and heavy winds toppled him from a skywalk between two tall buildings. The young author, meanwhile, had been taught by Karl and became the first woman skywalker, successfully walking the very wire that killed her grandfather. Circus lore--with suicides, bigamy, insanity and so on--fills in the family history. A strong, if downbeat, read. (Photographs) (First printing of 20,000) -- Copyright copy; 1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.