



A Kaleidoscope *of Memories*

*a collection of
short stories by*

Dorothy Adair Gonick

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Dedicated to our parents and grandparents,
who would have been delighted to know future generations.

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INTRODUCTION

Drive south on highway 169, stop right before the Missouri border. There you'll see acres of untamed farmland, moving with the wind. There is nothing left of the farmhouse my grandfather built, or the barns that were home to generations of animals. There are no traces of the farmers who tilled the land or threshed the wheat for countless seasons. But what is left is peace and quiet, and the stories we Adairs hold close to our hearts.

Our childhood on the farm was sandwiched between two of the biggest wars the world has ever seen. During this time, the US experienced the worst financial crisis in its history, not to mention the country's most devastating drought. However, when we reflect on this time, it is not these hardships that shaped who we became, but the incredibly full childhood that was given to us through the strength and love of our family.

This collection of short stories is about a time when we were deeply connected to our land, our family, and God. Whenever the Adairs gathered, there would be storytelling and laughter. This book is written to carry on this tradition of relating fond memories for generations to come.



Dear Reader,

Let's travel back into the 1920's and 1930's for a breath of fresh air on the Adair farm near Redding, Iowa.

We pass farmsteads, fields of grain, and pastured animals to arrive at our farmhouse. Then we race to the wide front porch and open the door.

Mom greets us with her big smile and a hug for each. As we enter, the aroma of fresh baked bread surrounds us. Let's have a slice with sweet butter.

We see Dad coming from the west pasture riding his favorite horse, Star. Lady barks a greeting and comes for a romp on the lawn.

You're invited to gather eggs, pick beans in the garden, and live the stories within these pages.



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