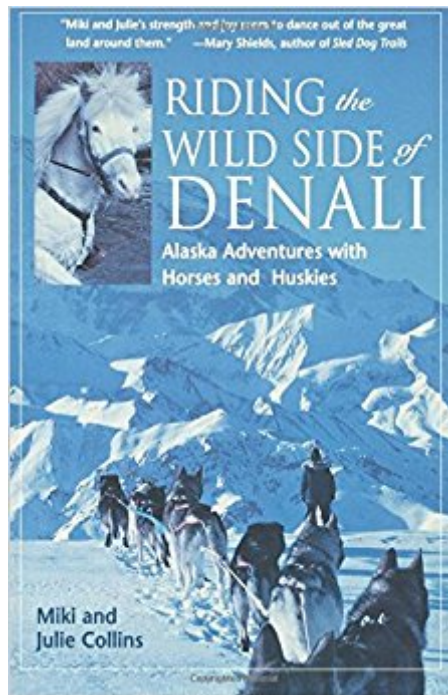




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# Riding The Wild Side Of Denali: Adventures With Horses And Huskies





## Synopsis

Identical twins Miki and Julie Collins trap, hunt, fish, and garden in Alaska's wilderness just north of Denali National Park in Alaska's vast interior. Their closest companions are loyal sled dogs and Icelandic horses, which eat fish and can withstand northern extremes. Whether taking a 1,900-mile excursion around Alaska by dog sled, defending their huskies from a charging grizzly, or dealing with a panicked horse in an airborne plane, the Collins sisters offer a new perspective on life in the northland. Theirs is an unusual lifestyle even by Alaska standards.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you've ever dreamed about homesteading in Alaska, you'll think twice after reading essayist Brice's description of backbreaking labor, isolation, and fear in her detailed portrait of two very different families living off the land. The Hannans, 150 miles from the nearest city in "a wilderness so profound that a case of appendicitis or a cut by an ax could be fatal," live simply in a dugout cabin, supplementing their store-bought provisions with food they grow, find, or hunt. Their two sons are home-schooled, and what little money they need is earned by trapping and seasonal jobs with an oil exploration firm. The Spears are also homesteaders, but they live on the road system. Though they have some modern conveniences, their primitive existence in a loosely organized community brings its own challenges of survival as they struggle to rebuild a church torched by an arsonist and deal with the "gut level hatreds, slander, property disputes, transciency and crime" of a diverse group of neighbors. Brice is at her best when letting the families speak for themselves. A her endless commentary about "personality and place" gets tiresome. The twin Collins sisters, on the other



hand, make homesteading sound like one big adventure. Sure, they work hard; sure, they've been threatened by grizzly bears, volcanoes, muddy bogs, and frigid weather. But it seems there's nothing these gals can't handle with their trusty sled dogs and Icelandic horses by their side. Raised in the Alaskan wilderness since childhood, they went to college but returned home to hunt, trap, fish, and garden, writing about their experiences in various publications. While their writing lacks the telling details of the Brice book, their tales of adventure are exhilarating. Purchase the Collins book for the sheer fun of it and save Brice for sociology students. A Charlotte L. Glover, Ketchikan P.L., AK Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Identical twin sisters Miki and Julie Collins grew up in the vast, roadless wilderness north of Denali National Park in Alaska, spending their childhood in a community of roughly thirty people scattered around the shores of a large lake. After seven years of correspondence home schooling, the twin sisters attended high school and college in Fairbanks, studying biology and journalism at the University of Alaska. Then they returned to their family's homestead, where they continue to live a traditional Bush lifestyle, trapping for fur, hunting for meat, fishing, and growing their own produce. Miki once entered the Iditarod, and Julie ran the 1,000-mile Yukon Quest. The sisters bought their first Icelandic horse, Lilja, in 1986.

This is a great book. I read it years ago, bought a copy because I wanted to re-read it and have one for myself. ( I like to re-read old favourites) This is a true life story about the lives and adventures of Miki and Julie Collins in the wilderness of Alaska. They write about thier lives with sled dogs, Icelandic Horses, hunting, trapping, gardening, and other day to day experiences of living off- grid. I found it an interesting book.

This was such a great book, I could not put it down! I learned so much and was able to relate to the characters very well. I highly recommend this book!

I have bought five copies. This book is a must for horse owners, especially prospective owners looking for a real cool horse - insert "Icelandic"

One of the best, most interesting books I have ever read. Checked it out from the library, then bought it so I could pass it around to family and friends.



What a great account of bush life with the Alaskan trapline twins. Their adventures are always fun to read! The Icelandic horses are new to their adventures. Their sled dog adventures sound incredible! Really enjoyed this book. The Collins sisters are great writers, filling the pages with humor.

This book, and their first one, are full of the details of living a self-sufficient life style. The adventures they embark on are so fun to read. If you like to read about Alaskan life, this has what you're looking for.

Very interesting book. Really tells the true hardships of living in Alaska. Lots of dangers. The twins are amazing women.

Adventure of the most challenging type! These women are remarkable in what they did and when & where they did it.

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