



The Sound of Gravel: A Memoir

By Ruth Wariner

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The Sound of Gravel: A Memoir By Ruth Wariner

A riveting, deeply affecting true story of one girl's coming-of-age in a polygamist family.

RUTH WARINER was the thirty-ninth of her father's forty-two children. Growing up on a farm in rural Mexico, where authorities turn a blind eye to the practices of her community, Ruth lives in a ramshackle house without indoor plumbing or electricity. At church, preachers teach that God will punish the wicked by destroying the world and that women can only ascend to Heaven by entering into polygamous marriages and giving birth to as many children as possible. After Ruth's father—the man who had been the founding prophet of the colony—is brutally murdered by his brother in a bid for church power, her mother remarries, becoming the second wife of another faithful congregant.

In need of government assistance and supplemental income, Ruth and her siblings are carted back and forth between Mexico and the United States, where Ruth's mother collects welfare and her stepfather works a variety of odd jobs. Ruth comes to love the time she spends in the States, realizing that perhaps the community into which she was born is not the right one for her. As she begins to doubt her family's beliefs and question her mother's choices, she struggles to balance her fierce love for her siblings with her determination to forge a better life for herself.

Recounted from the innocent and hopeful perspective of a child, *The Sound of Gravel* is the remarkable memoir of one girl's fight for peace and love. This is an intimate, gripping tale of triumph, courage, and resilience.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Wariner, whose deceased father had 42 children, grew up in a polygamous Mormon cult town in Mexico. Even though it was the 1970s, having electricity and plumbing in the house was a struggle, and many of her siblings were developmentally disabled, and Ruth had to care for them. Her family moved often—California, Texas, New Mexico, and back to Mexico when all else failed. Schooling wasn't important, but learning how to make fresh bread and to clean house for her future husband was. In honest, posttherapy fashion, Ruth explains how her mother didn't divorce her stepfather after physical spousal abuse and repeated sexual abuse of his daughters; the girls were supposed to forgive him instead. With no self-pity, Ruth doesn't apologize for her mother's actions—she is grateful for the love of her mother and siblings, though she knows that escaping their stepfather is what ultimately saved them. Teens will root for Ruth and her siblings to survive, cry when the young woman is abused, and fear for the family when things go wrong. **VERDICT** Fast-paced, sincere, and gut-wrenching, just like Jeannette Walls's *The Glass Castle*; this is a must-purchase memoir for high school libraries.—Sarah Hill, Lake Land College, Mattoon, IL

Review

"The narration by Wariner compliments the candid nature of her story...A captivation and emotional story delivered in a straightforward way."-**Library Journal** (Starred Review)

"This audiobook provides a glimpse of Wariner's childhood of food stamps, abuse, and polygamy as well as courage and family. It's a story that will stick with listeners long after the last word."--**AudioFile.com**

About the Author

RUTH WARINER lives in Portland, Oregon. After Wariner left Colonia LeBaron, the polygamist Mormon colony where she grew up, she moved to California, where she raised her three youngest sisters. After earning her GED, she put herself through college and graduate school, eventually becoming a high school Spanish teacher. She remains close to her siblings and is happily married. *The Sound of Gravel* is her first book.

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Users Review

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Thomas Berg:

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Michael Jones:

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Carey Gilliam:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read any book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a e-book. The book *The Sound of Gravel: A Memoir* it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book offers high quality.

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