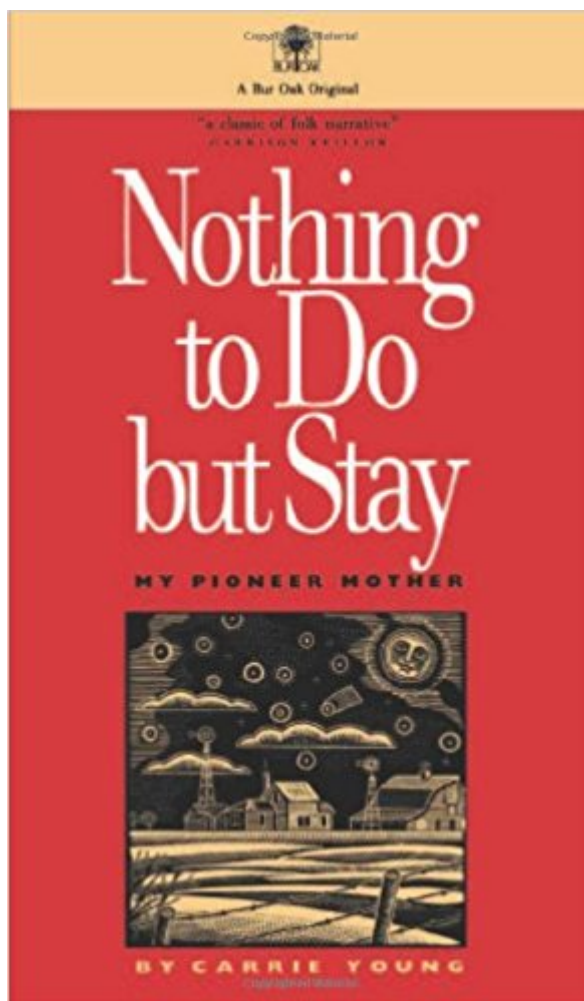


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# Nothing To Do But Stay



## Synopsis

This folk narrative by Carrie Young is a collection of essays that reminisce on her mother's North Dakota pioneering days.

## Book Information

Series: Bur Oak Book

Paperback: 128 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 30 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

In eight enjoyable anecdotal essays, Young ( *Green Broke* ) offers a glimpse of the challenges and rewards of 20th-century pioneering life in North Dakota. In 1904, her Norwegian-born mother, Carrine Gafkjen, age 25, set out alone from Minnesota and staked a 160-acre claim; in those early days she walked five miles to a creek to wash her clothes and fetch drinking water. At 34, when she married homesteader Sever Berg and he moved onto her property (which was larger than his own), she became a prairie housewife, turning out five meals a day and preparing Norwegian specialties such as lefse, a 24-inch potato pancake baked directly on top of a cast-iron range. Young and her siblings endured their own trials, notably their efforts to herd their mother's flock of turkeys--animals, she wryly notes, that are "congenitally indisposed to the principle of herding." Here too is celebration, like Syttende Mai (Norwegian Independence Day), a holiday ignored by the women, but which the men spent drinking and "swearing deathless allegiance" to the Old Country, "on which most of them had never laid eyes." Photos not seen by PW . Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.

YA-- Readers are treated to history at its liveliest in these eight essays. Young tells of her pioneer mother's early westering experiences and those of herself and her five siblings. Like Laura Ingalls Wilder, she admits to the hardships of pioneering after the turn of the century but accentuates the positive aspects. She tells of her mother's 1904 trek to North Dakota to homestead alone and explains that the woman was a successful landowner of 320 acres when she married and began her family. This is a natural read-aloud for secondary history classes, and it offers excellent examples of personal essays for journalism and English classes. It's a terrific read for everybody.- Barbara Hawkins, West Potomac High Sch . , Fairfax, VACopyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.  
--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I read history instead of fiction because what really happened is so much more incredible than anything a fiction writer can come up with. People's diaries and reminiscences of their own experiences are the most revealing of daily life in former times and this book is one of the best of that genre I have read. Entertaining and well-written, and puts my own difficulties in perspective, especially as a wife and mother.

Excellent book on life on American farms in the early 1920's. Story is about farmers in North Dakota and reflects all farming the America mid-west.

all good

One of my all time favorite books. At least my third time reading it. What a woman of courage she was. It was a good history of the area and time.

Another excellent tale of Scandinavian perseverance in pioneer days. Makes me appreciate what my fore bearers went through.

Great book.

Another great book by this author, loved this quick and easy read of the pioneers.

Very interesting book, It tells why USA is great with people like that.

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