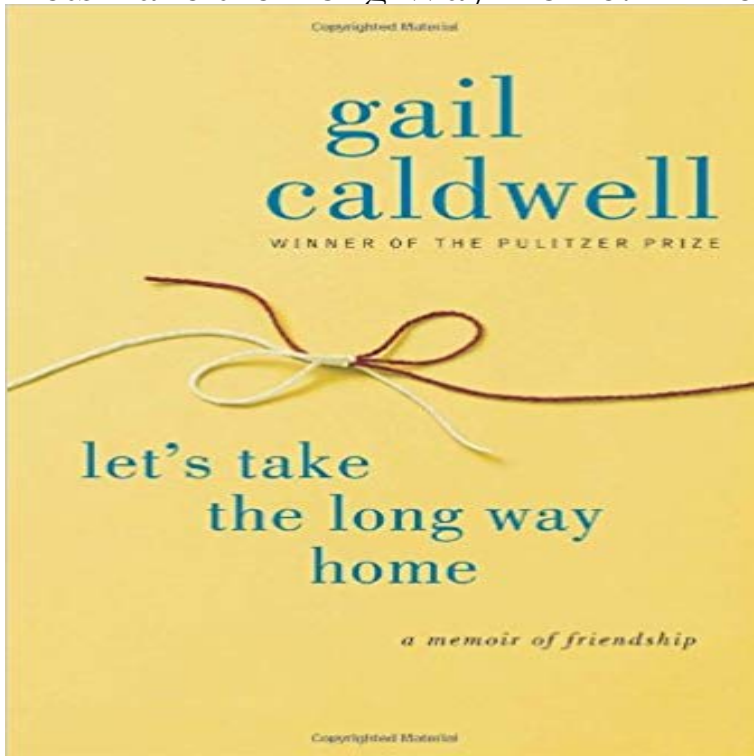


Lets Take the Long Way Home: A Memoir of Friendship



It's an old, old story: I had a friend and we shared everything, and then she died and so we shared that, too. So begins this gorgeous memoir by Pulitzer Prize winner Gail Caldwell, a testament to the power of friendship, a story of how an extraordinary bond between two women can illuminate the loneliest, funniest, hardest moments in life, including the final and ultimate challenge. They met over their dogs. Both writers, Gail Caldwell and Caroline Knapp, author of *Drinking: A Love Story*, became best friends, talking about everything from their shared history of a struggle with alcohol, to their relationships with men and colleagues, to their love of books. They walked the woods of New England and rowed on the Charles River, and the miles they logged on land and water became a measure of the interior ground they covered. From disparate backgrounds but with striking emotional similarities, these two private, fiercely self-reliant women created an attachment more profound than either of them could ever have foreseen. The friendship helped them define the ordinary moments of life as the ones worth cherishing. Then, several years into this remarkable connection, Knapp was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer. With her signature exquisite prose, Caldwell mines the deepest levels of devotion and grief in this moving memoir about treasuring and losing a best friend. *Lets Take the Long Way Home* is a celebration of life and of the transformations that come from intimate connection and it affirms, once again, why Gail Caldwell is recognized as one of our bravest and most honest literary voices.

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