

The Glass Castle: a memoir by Jeannette Walls, Scribner New York, NY 2005.

The author wrote of her life growing up in a home with parents who were often homeless. The author takes the reader back in time and follows her life. The author was one of four children whose parents had problems conforming to a traditional lifestyle. Her father was an alcoholic and while he was brilliant, he was very often unemployed. Her mother had a teaching degree but loved painting more than even raising her children. At times her mother would refuse to work to help support the family.

The family moved around a lot and the children's education was often disrupted. The family was very poor and the children were often teased/bullied by others at school. The author told of hiding out at school and stealing leftover lunches from the garbage at school. The author also told how it was the children who often took on the responsibility of running the home. The author spoke of the bond among the family members.

The author spoke of her own success in high school and later college despite having to often fend for herself since her parents did not. The children in fact watched out for one another and in fact provided the emotional and financial support for each other to finally move away from the parent's home. The book illustrates the struggles these children had to endure and their resiliency. Yet, the reader also learns how shamed the author was to reveal to others that her parents were homeless.