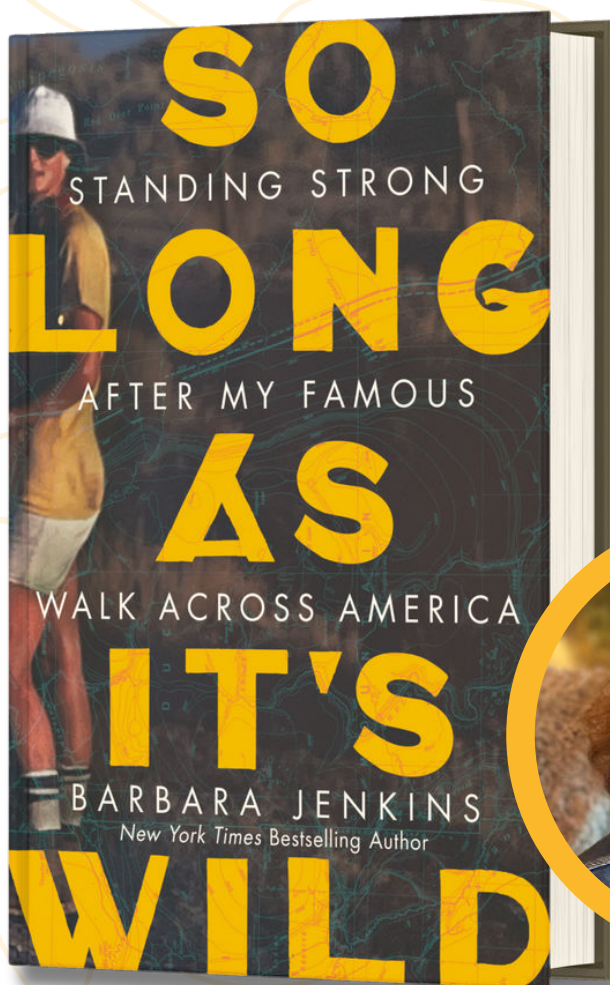


DISCUSSION GUIDE



6x9 HC 304 pp. \$27.95

Barbara Jenkins grew up in the wild beauty of the Ozarks with no running water and homemade clothes. She shot to fame in 1976 with her then-husband for their ambitious walk across America which became the inspiration for their New York Times bestseller *The Walk West*, selling over 12 million copies. Jenkins now travels the country, speaking at universities, conventions, and other events about her story. She lives in Nashville, Tennessee.



From the *New York Times* bestselling coauthor of *The Walk West* comes Barbara Jenkins's long-awaited tale of her walk across America, an adventure that once captured the national media spotlight. From the untold narrative of her impoverished hillbilly upbringing, to the crushing aftermath of her walk toward newfound courage and strength, *So Long as It's Wild* is one woman's tale, stepping out from behind the man she had married, to find her voice and claim her story.

**"SO LONG AS IT'S WILD
IS A BOOK OF
ENDURANCE, GRIT,
LOVE, COMPASSION,
AND SPIRITUAL AND
PHYSICAL ENERGY.
WHAT A BLESSING.
I HOPE IT TOUCHES YOU
AS MUCH AS IT HAS ME."
—DOLLY PARTON**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Q1.** What compelled you to read this memoir?
- Q2.** Chapters in this book alternate between Barbara's childhood and her walk across America. Why do you think she chose to tell her story like this, instead of linearly? How did this format impact your understanding of Barbara's life and story?
- Q3.** How do you think the differences in Peter and Barbara's upbringings impacted each of them on their walk across America and, ultimately, their relationship? How have the circumstances of your upbringing shaped you?
- Q4.** What did you take away from Barbara's story in terms of being an inhabitant of Earth and showing respect and appreciation for the natural world?
- Q5.** Throughout her walk across America, Barbara meets and befriends multiple different women that impact her understanding of herself and the world. What relationships in your own life have been most impactful to you?
- Q6.** Barbara frequently refers to herself as a "hillbilly." How do you think this identity has affected her attitude and her determination throughout her life?
- Q7.** Barbara contemplates finding happiness and contentment in traditional means (marriage and family) versus following her dreams and carving her own path. Have you ever felt like you took the well-traveled trail in an area of your life, but you still weren't truly happy? What dreams did you have that you wanted to chase?
- Q8.** Religion and her relationship with God play a major role throughout Barbara's story. How did this memoir impact your own spirituality?
- Q9.** Which aspects of Barbara's story do you most identify with in your life?
- Q10.** Barbara's journey is shaped by both the generations that come before and after her. How do you think your family impacts your own life experience? How do you hope to impact the next generation?



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