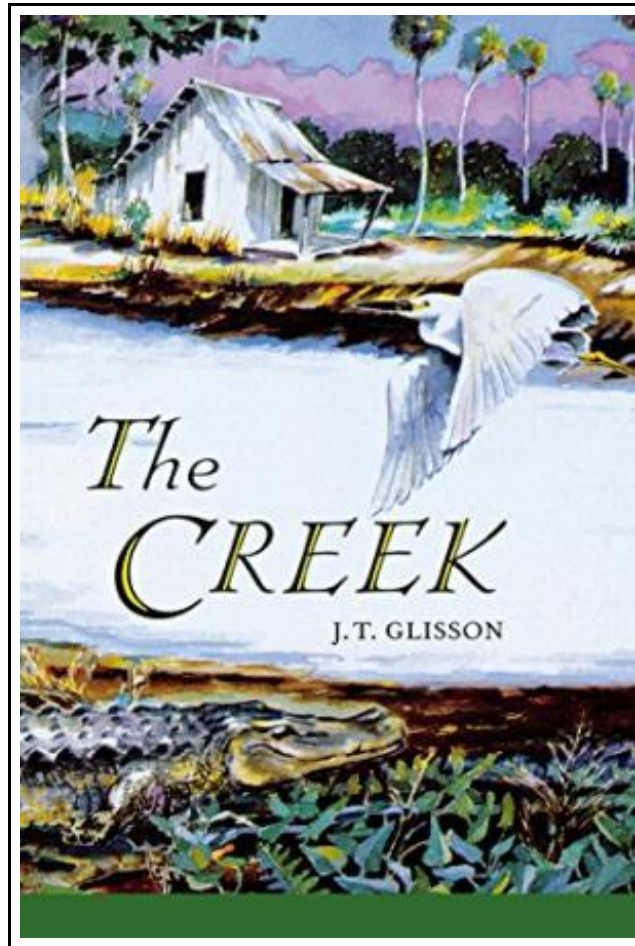


The Creek



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University Press of Florida. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 283 pages. Dimensions: 8.8in. x 6.0in. x 0.9in. I had met only two or three of the neighboring Crackers when I realized that isolation had done something to these people. . . . They have a primal quality against their background of jungle hammock, moss-hung against the tremendous silence of the scrub country. The only ingredients of their lives are the elemental things. --Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, March 1930, in a letter to Alfred S. Dashiell of Scribners Magazine Except for one extended black family and one writer from up north, folks from Cross Creek were ornery, independent Crackers, J. T. Glisson writes in this memoir of growing up in the backwoods of north-central Florida. The time spanned the late twenties to the early fifties, and isolation and an abundance of mosquitoes and snakes were their claim to fame. The writer was Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. In her 25 years at the Creek, Miz Rawlings was regarded as That Woman--warm, high-strung, and simply eccentric. She drove recklessly, smoked in public, and had black spells. A Pulitzer Prize did little to change her status. In Cross Creek everyone had space to be a character and every character had a title: the meanest, laziest, most pregnant, or best cat fisherman. Describing day-to-day life in unaffected prose, Glissons portraits include Charley, the fisherman who did his banking in a Prince Albert tobacco can nailed to a tree; Bernie Bass, who spoke perfect Florida Cracker without polish; Old Blue, young Jake Glissons nuisance hog; Aunt Martha Mickens, the matriarch of all the blacks at the Creek (including Henry, the first critic to pass judgment on Jakes drawings); and especially Jakes father, Tom, the man whose wisdom, boundless optimism, and colorful speech figure prominently in Rawlingss Cross Creek. (Of his...

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