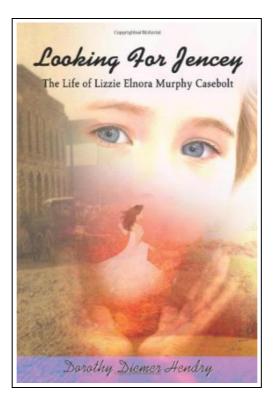
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iUniverse, United States, 2007. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. An orphaned girl lives through 90 years of social and familial upheaval in this haunting fictionalized biography. When smallpox carries off her brother, father and beloved mother Jencey in 1874, seven-year old Lizzie Murphy is left with a void in her heart and a clouded future. Fortunately, the town of Miami, Mo., takes care of its own. Lizzie finds a loving home with a local judge, is romanced by a charming rogue who runs off to join Buffalo Bill s Wild West Show and marries the seemingly more reliable lawyer John Casebolt. Alas, her husband proves a shiftless, egotistical bigot who repeatedly raids Lizzie s meager savings to finance hare-brained, get-rich-quick schemes. (Fraudulent diamond mines are a perennial temptation). Lizzie s life is shaped by the constraints imposed on women in a sexist society, but not shackled by them-fleeing in a Model T, the feisty heroine divorces John, opens a boarding house, sends her daughter Myrtle to college and holds fast to her feminist and progressive principles. Hendry, Lizzie s now-deceased granddaughter and herself a character in the story, fleshes out Lizzie s real-life adventures with invented scenes and dialogue that display a sharp eye for character and historical setting. The tumultuous narrative subsides a bit when Lizzie retires and moves in with Myrtle s growing brood. There s not much plot in the second half of the book-work, school, vacations, the antics of young children and everyday anxieties about the Depression and World War II fill the pages. But Hendry s clear homespun prose invests her clan s history with real pathos. As Lizzie ponders her life and the lives of loved ones, the leaps of faith young people make and the...

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