# Contract with the Reader

Here are a couple examples of contracts with the readers for you to consider.

**Half Broke Horses**

"I saw the book more of a vein of an oral history, a retelling of stories handed down by my family through the years, and undertaken with the storyteller's traditional liberties. I wrote the story in first person because I wanted to capture Lily's distinctive voice, which I clearly recall. At the time I didn't think of the book as fiction. Lily Casey Smith was a very real woman, and to say that I created her or the events of her is giving me more credit than I am due. However, since I don't have the words of Lily herself, and since I have also drawn on my imagination to fill in details that are hazy or missing – and I've changed a few names to protect people's privacy — the only honest thing to do is call the book a novel."

**Jeannette Wells**

**Boys in the Boat**

"In several places in this book, I quote bits of conversation or delve into the thinking of which only Joe or Joyce were privy. Though no one was there to record these conversations, and no one made transcripts of Joe's and Joyce's thoughts, Joe and Joyce were the key witnesses to their own lives, and they are the ultimate sources of these pieces of the story. In the several months during which I was able to interview Joe before he passed away, he shared not only the fundamental facts of their story but also,...

...sometimes in exquisite detail, many of his specific feelings and thoughts at key junctures of the tale. He was able for instance, to recount his shell house conversations with George Peacock, his emotional devastation up being abandoned in Sequim, his journey out to Grand Coulee, and his troubled relationship with his father and Thula. Later, after Joe was gone, as Judy and I sat together for all those many hours poring over photographs and letters and scrapbooks, she was able to help me fill in the gaps, particularly at those key points in the story, many of which her father or her mother had narrated to her over and...

over again during the course of a lifetime. These conversations and recollections are documented most fully in the complete notes for this book online."

**Daniel James Brown**