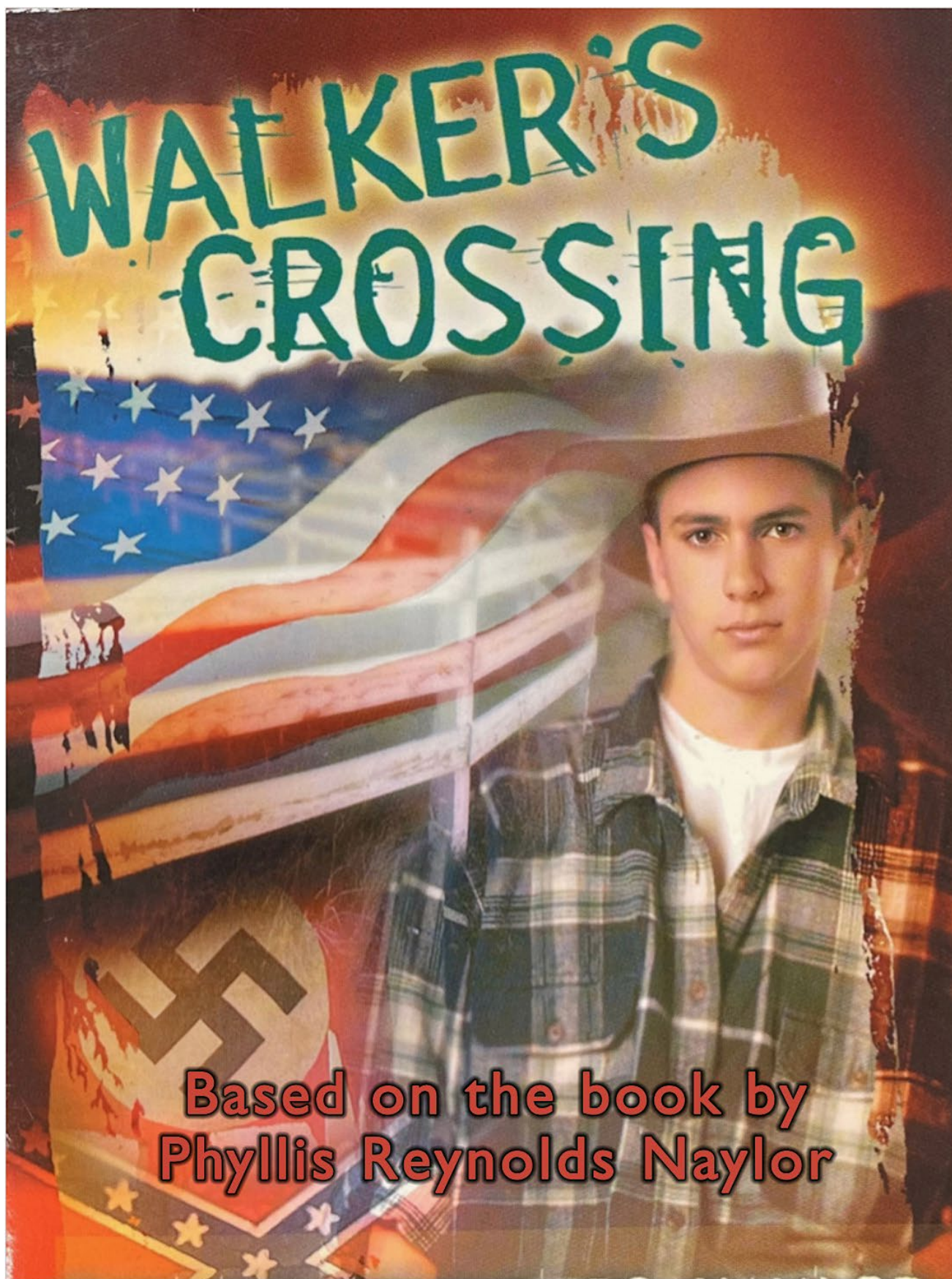


WALKER'S CROSSING

Based on the book by
Phyllis Reynolds Naylor



Walker's Crossing

A place for hate and hope

Ryan wants just one thing: to be a working cowboy on the large ranch in Wyoming, where he and generations of his family have lived.

But Ryan's older brother, Gil, wants something very different — and far more dangerous. He belongs to a local militia group called the Mountain Patriots Association. Gil and the Patriots are convinced that the United States government, foreign immigrants and racial minorities are going to take over his country.

But not without a fight: the Mountain Patriots are armed for battle, with confrontation and disaster on the way. Ryan does not plan to be in the middle of it when it comes, but that is where he finds himself. And that is where, consequently, he learns what it means to show true courage, be independent and find his place in a rapidly changing world.

The film is based on the award-winning novel *Walker's Crossing* by Newbery winning author Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

Editorial Reviews

From Publishers Weekly

"Naylor tackles the timely subject of militia movements. The issues and the characters are developed fairly, and the plot builds solidly past a surprise climax to a credibly optimistic resolution."

From VOYA

"Bears all the hallmarks of [Naylor's] best work including a topical, intriguing plot, engaging, believable characters and lean, vivid prose."

From Library Journal

"The nature of the story requires the included racially offensive language and violence, which is occasionally shocking. This is an exciting, important study of the need for individuals to claim and defend their beliefs while defending the freedoms of others as well."

WALKER'S CROSSING - CAST CONSIDERATIONS

RYAN WALKER:

Our protagonist, 15, dreams of becoming a cowboy in an ever shrinking and fenced in prairie. He thinks he has no feelings one way or another about someone's race but is trying to better understand his brother Gil's way.

POTENTIAL ACTORS



Jacob Tremblay



Noah Jupe



Lewis MacDougall



Finn Little

CHARLOTTE EVANS:

The high school "it" girl who is in the middle of a high school controversy when it comes out that she is not of a "pure" background.

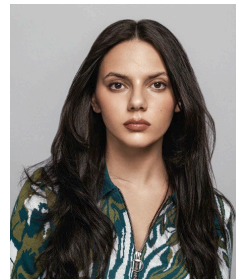
POTENTIAL ACTORS



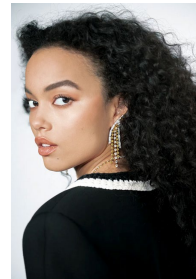
Jenna Ortega



Sofia Wylie



Dafne Keen



Whitney Peak

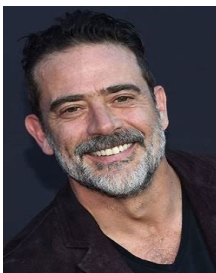
LON WALKER:

Ryan's father, cowboy, and caretaker of ranch. He had a bad riding accident, and his position was downgraded to caretaker. In constant pain and has kind of "checked out" from being the head of the family. Also, the owner of the ranch gives the Walker family a place to live in exchange for his caretaking expertise.

POTENTIAL ACTORS



Tim McGraw



Jeffrey Dean Morgan



Ethan Hawke



Liev Schreiber

DORIS WALKER:

Ryan's mother, she oversees her four kids and the household. Not very well educated and an avowed racist – but she doesn't think of herself as one. Likes Wyoming and doesn't like the fact that Wyoming is becoming "less white."

POTENTIAL ACTORS



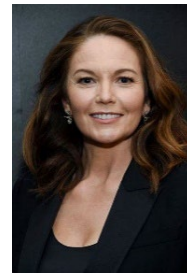
Laura Dern



Patricia Arquette



Patricia Clarkson



Diane Lane

GIL WALKER:

Ryan's brother, 19, is a lost soul who finds his salvation in the white supremacy groups in Wyoming. Their cause gives him a "focus and purpose" in a life he had been lacking.

POTENTIAL ACTORS



Chandler Riggs



Maxim Saprykin



Milo Manheim



Rudy Panko

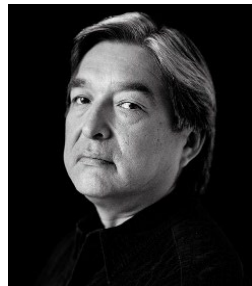
TP BATES:

TP Bates, owner of the establishment: a gas station/repair shop, coffee and clothing shop – the only store in a dying town. The place for most social gatherings as well.

POTENTIAL ACTORS



Danny Trejo



Graham Green



Luis Guzman



Cheech Marin

WALKER'S CROSSING – THE STORY

Ryan Walker has always known what he wants to be: a cowboy. His grandfather was a cowboy, and then his dad, before his father was seriously injured in a riding accident. And even if the cowboy way of life has been dying for a century, it still holds a grip in this distant, isolated and breathtaking area of Wyoming.

But so much more has been dying as well. The pandemic took the livelihoods of so many local storeowners and businesses. And what government assistance the locals did receive wasn't much, or very welcome, as many of the community blame the government for the initial misinformation of the virus, followed by the lightning fast spread and devastation of the disease.

Many suspect the disease may even have been created and spread by the federal government, and now, any "help" from the government is seen as attempts to infiltrate and control the average citizen's life. Of the federal government, "They break you, then they take you" is a mantra spoken by many of the disheartened, but increasingly defiant locals. Many quietly whisper about the need to change the ways they've accepted for so long. 1776 is not just an ancient date in history, but it is now a coded rallying cry for change.

Ryan just wants everything to go back to the way they were, hanging out with his pal Matthew and surviving 9th grade. Even that is not so easy; as Ryan spends half his time pining away for Matt's girlfriend, Charlotte.

The arrival of Barry Dubinsky to Ryan's ninth grade is a catalyst that sets into motion a series of events that takes Ryan, and his family down a dark path to violence and destruction. Matthew insists Barry's dad is a government agent, sent to keep tabs on the locals. Mr. Dubinsky is with the Fish and Game department, so Ryan doesn't see the connection, (or threat). It is then that Matt lets Ryan in on a secret, (or not so secret) about the Mountain Patriots Association, a para-military group of self-deputized defenders of freedom that Matt plans on joining when he is 15. (Ryan's own brother, Gil, has already joined the group.) The MPA is a militia group that wants to keep Wyoming free from immigrants, minorities, and government interference. The group espouses a future free of government control.

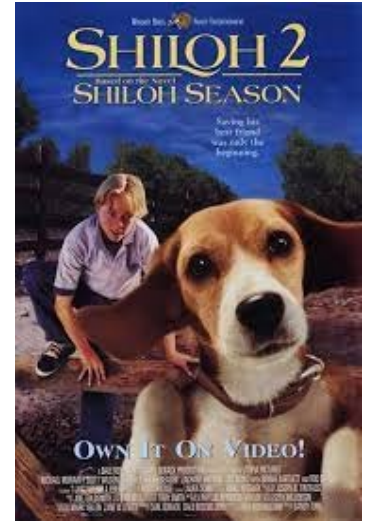
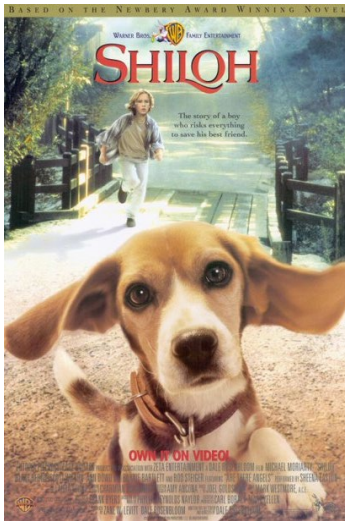
While Ryan's brother shares all the traits of a home-grown terrorist in the making, their parents are simply happy to see Gil, the loner, "become a part of something" rather than just sitting in his basement watching pro-American manifesto videos. As Matt becomes more militant, his extremist views have an unexpected windfall for Ryan. When Matt discovers Charlotte to have "mix breed genes", he breaks off his relationship with her, allowing for Ryan to step in to console her, and become closer to the girl he has admired from afar. As the Mountain Patriots increase their visibility and defiance within the blended, but primarily white town, tensions in the community build to inevitable violence. Ryan is torn between his love for the world in which he grew up and his sense of fairness and decency. How can he stand up for what is right when he's not sure what that is?

The thematic elements of *WALKER'S CROSSING* cannot be timelier in today's world. Politically there seems to be a standoff between right and left, with violence and bullying to be the only route for progress on either side. The world we treasure and have taken advantage of for centuries is now showing the strains of our constant demands. The cost of living continues to skyrocket as money remains tight and salary raises a thing of the past. Environmentally, economically and politically, we find ourselves on a precipice that can end either in salvation or destruction, and today's youth are now on the edge of this battlefield with no front lines, no rules of engagement, and no end in sight. *WALKER'S CROSSING* is a caustic and thrilling combination of *YELLOWSTONE* and *STAND BY ME*, with rich, vibrant and troubled characters facing an onslaught of challenges in the dying West.

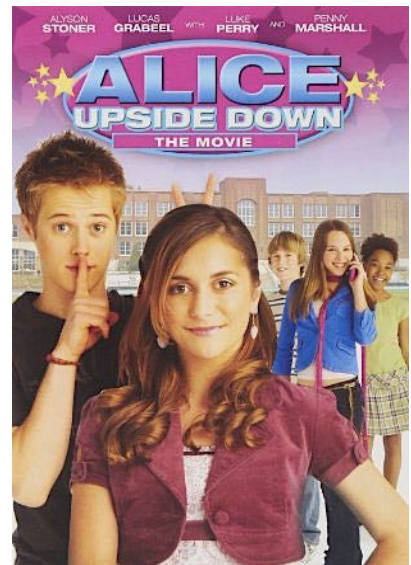
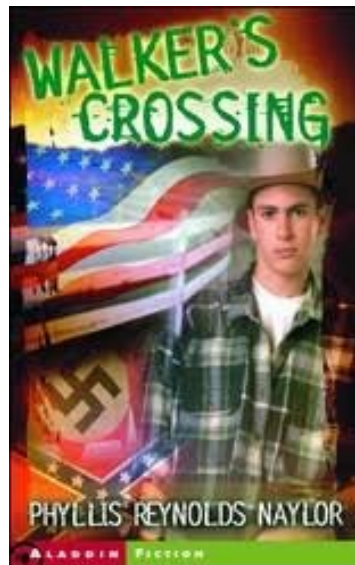
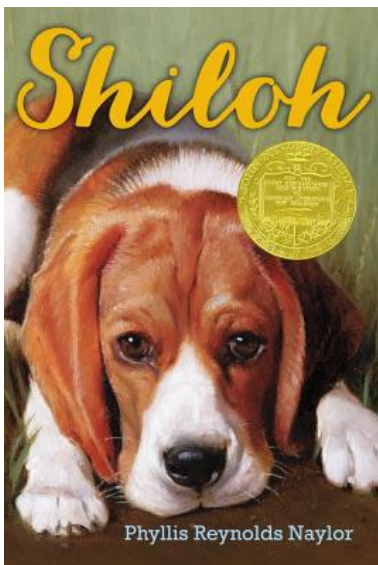








Phyllis Reynolds Naylor



Phyllis Reynolds Naylor is an American writer, best known for children's and young adult fiction. Naylor has written over 130 books and is best known for her children's novel quartet *Shiloh* (a 1992 Newbery Medal winner) and for her *Alice* book series, one of the most frequently challenged books of the last decade.

Her book, *Walker's Crossing*, is a story about what happens when a teenager gets involved with a white supremacist group.