

peace like a river leif enger

Peace Like a River Leif Enger: A Beautiful Exploration of Faith, Family, and Resilience

peace like a river leif enger is more than just the title of a novel; it's a phrase that evokes a sense of calm, hope, and enduring strength—qualities that define Leif Enger's beloved work. This captivating book has touched the hearts of readers worldwide, blending elements of faith, adventure, and familial bonds into a narrative that feels both timeless and deeply personal. If you're curious about what makes *Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger such a remarkable read or want to dive deeper into its themes and storytelling style, you've come to the right place.

Understanding Peace Like a River by Leif Enger

At its core, *Peace Like a River* tells the story of the Land family, narrated by eleven-year-old Reuben Land, who offers a lens of innocence and wonder as the family navigates extraordinary hardships. The novel is set against the backdrop of the American Midwest in the 1960s, a time and place that may seem ordinary, but Enger infuses it with a sense of magic realism and profound spirituality.

Leif Enger's writing is lyrical and evocative, making the story feel like a folk tale as much as a contemporary novel. The phrase "peace like a river" itself is drawn from the famous hymn "It Is Well With My Soul," symbolizing a deep, abiding sense of tranquility amidst turmoil—something that resonates throughout the Land family's journey.

The Plot in a Nutshell

The story revolves around the Land family: Jeremiah, the steadfast and miraculous father; Reuben, the thoughtful narrator; Davy, the older brother who becomes an outlaw after defending the family; and Swede, the imaginative and spirited younger sister. When Davy kills two men who threatened their home, the family embarks on a quest that is both physical and spiritual to find him and bring him back.

As they travel, the narrative explores themes of love, justice, faith, and the mysterious ways in which miracles can manifest in everyday life. The blend of suspense, humor, and heartfelt emotion keeps readers engaged from start to finish.

Themes That Make Peace Like a River Stand Out

One of the reasons *Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger has earned a special place in contemporary American literature is its rich thematic depth. Enger doesn't just tell a story; he invites readers to reflect on life's big questions through the eyes of a child who sees the world with openness and faith.

Faith and Miracles

Faith is a central pillar of the novel. Jeremiah Land's unwavering belief in God and the miraculous powers he seems to possess set the tone for the entire story. Enger explores how faith can provide solace and strength during adversity, while also acknowledging the complexities and doubts that come with it.

The miraculous events in the book are never over-the-top but subtle and believable, encouraging readers to consider how miracles might exist in real life, often hidden in acts of kindness, love, and perseverance.

Family and Loyalty

At its heart, *Peace Like a River* is a family saga. The loyalty between the Land siblings and their father is palpable and moving. Enger portrays a family that, despite its imperfections and challenges, remains united by love and a shared sense of purpose.

This depiction of family resonates deeply, especially in today's fast-paced world where such bonds can sometimes feel fragile or overlooked.

Justice and Morality

The novel also grapples with questions of right and wrong. Davy's decision to take justice into his own hands sparks a moral dilemma that ripples throughout the story. Enger does not provide easy answers but instead invites readers to reflect on the gray areas of morality, the consequences of violence, and the complexities of human nature.

Leif Enger's Writing Style and Narrative Voice

Enger's prose in *Peace Like a River* is often described as poetic and immersive. The narrative, filtered through young Reuben's perspective,

strikes a perfect balance between childlike wonder and mature insight. This unique voice allows the novel to explore profound themes without feeling heavy or preachy.

Use of Magical Realism

One standout feature of the book is its subtle use of magical realism. Moments that could be interpreted as supernatural are woven naturally into the fabric of the story. This stylistic choice enhances the novel's spiritual undertones and emphasizes the idea that the extraordinary exists within the ordinary.

Setting as a Character

The depiction of the Midwest landscape—the small towns, vast skies, and rugged terrain—plays a crucial role, almost as if the setting itself is a character. Enger's vivid descriptions transport readers to a world where nature's beauty and harshness mirror the characters' internal struggles.

Why Peace Like a River Resonates With Readers

Many readers find themselves deeply moved by *Peace Like a River* because it captures universal human experiences: love, loss, hope, and the quest for meaning. Enger's ability to blend humor, suspense, and spirituality creates a reading experience that is both uplifting and thought-provoking.

Relatable Characters

The Land family members are flawed yet lovable, making their joys and trials feel authentic. Reuben's narration, in particular, invites empathy; his youthful innocence coupled with profound observations offers a fresh way to see the world.

A Story About Hope

In a world often marked by uncertainty, *Peace Like a River* offers readers a message of hope. It suggests that peace, like a river, can flow steadily through life, even when faced with storms. This reassurance has made the book a favorite for book clubs, educators, and anyone seeking inspiration.

Tips for Reading and Appreciating *Peace Like a River*

If you're considering diving into *Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger, here are some tips to enrich your reading experience:

- **Take your time:** Enger's prose is rich and layered, so savoring the language enhances your appreciation.
- **Reflect on the themes:** Pause to think about the questions raised about faith, justice, and family.
- **Discuss with others:** Joining a book club or discussion group can reveal new perspectives and deepen understanding.
- **Explore related literature:** If you enjoy Enger's style, consider reading other novels that blend spirituality with storytelling, such as Marilynne Robinson's works.

Peace Like a River in Popular Culture and Literary Circles

Since its release, *Peace Like a River* has garnered critical acclaim and a loyal readership. It often appears on lists of must-read American novels and is praised for its unique voice and heartfelt storytelling. The book has been used in educational settings to explore narrative techniques and themes of morality and faith.

Leif Enger himself has become recognized as a distinctive voice in contemporary fiction, with readers eagerly anticipating his subsequent works. The novel has also inspired adaptations and discussions around the interplay of religion and literature in modern storytelling.

Peace Like a River by Leif Enger invites readers on a journey that is as much about the landscape of the heart as it is about the physical terrain. Its blend of spiritual insight, family devotion, and lyrical storytelling makes it a timeless piece that continues to resonate deeply. Whether you're drawn to stories of faith, tales of adventure, or narratives that explore the complexities of human nature, this novel offers a richly rewarding experience.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main plot of 'Peace Like a River' by Leif Enger?

'Peace Like a River' follows the story of the Land family, particularly young Reuben Land, as they navigate extraordinary events including miracles, a manhunt for Reuben's outlaw father, and themes of faith and family in 1960s Minnesota.

Who is the narrator of 'Peace Like a River'?

The novel is narrated by Reuben Land, the young son of the Land family, who recounts the events with a blend of innocence, reflection, and insight.

What role does faith play in 'Peace Like a River'?

Faith is central to the novel, especially through Jeremiah Land, the father, whose unwavering belief and miraculous acts influence the family's journey and provide hope amidst adversity.

How does Leif Enger incorporate miracles into the story?

Enger weaves miracles naturally into the narrative, portraying them as subtle yet impactful events that underscore the themes of hope, faith, and the extraordinary within the ordinary.

What are the major themes explored in 'Peace Like a River'?

Major themes include family loyalty, faith and spirituality, justice and morality, the innocence of childhood, and the complexity of good versus evil.

How is the character of Davy Land portrayed in the novel?

Davy Land, Reuben's older brother, is depicted as a brave and determined young man who becomes an outlaw, driven by a strong sense of justice and protection for his family.

What is the significance of the title 'Peace Like a River'?

The title references a biblical phrase symbolizing a deep, abiding peace that flows steadily like a river, reflecting the novel's exploration of inner

peace amidst turmoil.

Has 'Peace Like a River' by Leif Enger received any notable awards or recognition?

Yes, 'Peace Like a River' has been widely acclaimed and was a finalist for the 2002 Book Sense Book of the Year Award; it is celebrated for its lyrical prose and heartfelt storytelling.

Additional Resources

Peace Like a River Leif Enger: An In-Depth Exploration of the Novel's Enduring Appeal

peace like a river leif enger is a phrase that resonates deeply within literary circles, capturing the essence of a novel that has both charmed and challenged readers since its publication. Leif Enger's debut novel, *Peace Like a River*, published in 2001, is often hailed as a modern classic of American literature. Its blending of family drama, spiritual undertones, and elements of magical realism has cemented its place in contemporary fiction. This article delves into the narrative intricacies, thematic richness, and cultural significance of *Peace Like a River*, exploring why it continues to captivate a diverse audience.

Overview of Peace Like a River by Leif Enger

Peace Like a River tells the story of the Land family, focusing on the perspective of eleven-year-old Reuben Land. The narrative unfolds in the 1960s Midwest, where Reuben's family faces extraordinary challenges. His asthmatic younger brother, Davy, becomes involved in a violent incident, leading to a manhunt that propels the family into a journey across state lines and spiritual exploration.

Leif Enger's storytelling is marked by lyrical prose and a unique narrative voice that combines innocence with profound wisdom. The book's title itself is drawn from a hymn, reflecting the spiritual themes interwoven throughout the novel. This connection underscores the novel's exploration of faith, miracles, and the meaning of grace.

Narrative Style and Voice

One of the most distinguishing features of *Peace Like a River* is its first-person narration through Reuben Land. Enger crafts Reuben's voice with a blend of childlike wonder and mature insight, enabling readers to experience the story's events with emotional depth and reflection. This narrative choice

allows the novel to balance moments of intense drama with gentle humor and philosophical musings.

The novel's prose has been praised for its poetic quality and vivid imagery. Enger's descriptions of the rural landscape and the intimate moments within the Land family contribute significantly to the immersive reading experience. This stylistic approach often draws comparisons to works by authors such as Harper Lee and Marilynne Robinson, who similarly explore themes of family and morality through evocative language.

Thematic Exploration in Peace Like a River

At its core, *Peace Like a River* engages with several profound themes that elevate it beyond a simple family saga. These include faith and spirituality, the nature of miracles, justice and morality, and the resilience of family bonds.

Faith and Spirituality

Faith permeates the novel in subtle yet powerful ways. Jeremiah Land, the family patriarch, is a man of deep conviction whose unwavering belief in God shapes his responses to the trials his family faces. This portrayal is neither dogmatic nor preachy; instead, it invites readers to contemplate the role of faith in adversity.

The miraculous events that occur, such as Jeremiah's healing powers, challenge readers to consider the boundaries between reality and the supernatural. Enger's treatment of miracles is nuanced, neither fully endorsing nor dismissing them, but rather presenting them as integral to the human experience of hope and belief.

Justice, Morality, and the Law

The novel also probes questions about justice and the limits of legality. Davy's act of violence, while criminal, is portrayed within a complex moral framework that questions the nature of right and wrong. The manhunt for Davy and the family's subsequent flight raise issues about loyalty, protection, and the consequences of standing by one's convictions.

This tension between legal justice and moral righteousness offers fertile ground for discussion, particularly in the context of American literature that grapples with themes of law, order, and individual conscience.

Family and Resilience

Peace Like a River is ultimately a story about family—its strength, imperfections, and enduring love. The Land family's cohesion in the face of external threats and internal struggles exemplifies resilience. Enger's characterization of each family member reveals the complexities of familial roles and the sacrifices made for loved ones.

The novel's exploration of sibling relationships, especially between Reuben and Davy, adds emotional depth and highlights the formative impact of family dynamics on personal growth.

Critical Reception and Cultural Impact

Since its release, Peace Like a River has garnered widespread critical acclaim. Reviewers have lauded Enger's ability to blend genres, merging elements of Westerns, coming-of-age stories, and spiritual quests into a cohesive narrative. The novel has been recognized for its accessibility and emotional resonance, making it a popular choice in academic settings and book clubs alike.

Comparisons with Contemporary Literature

Peace Like a River shares thematic and stylistic affinities with other notable works of early 21st-century American fiction. Its exploration of rural life and spirituality invites comparison with Marilynne Robinson's *Gilead*, while its blend of realism and the miraculous echoes the works of authors like Barbara Kingsolver.

Moreover, Enger's novel stands out for its unique narrative voice and the way it humanizes complex moral dilemmas without sacrificing narrative momentum or emotional engagement.

Adaptations and Legacy

While Peace Like a River has not yet been adapted into a major film or television series, its cinematic qualities and compelling storyline have led to ongoing interest from filmmakers. The novel's enduring popularity is reflected in sustained sales and its presence on recommended reading lists.

Its legacy is also evident in the way it has inspired readers to explore themes of faith, family, and justice within their own lives, marking it as a work that transcends its narrative to offer universal insights.

Pros and Cons of Peace Like a River

Enger's novel is not without its critiques, and a balanced examination includes acknowledging both its strengths and limitations.

- **Pros:** Lyrical prose, rich character development, profound thematic depth, engaging narrative voice, and a unique blend of genres.
- **Cons:** Some readers may find the pacing uneven, particularly in the middle sections; the spiritual elements might not resonate with those seeking strictly secular narratives; and certain plot developments require suspension of disbelief.

Why Peace Like a River Leif Enger Remains Relevant

The continued relevance of Peace Like a River stems from its timeless exploration of human experience. In an era marked by social and political complexity, Enger's novel offers a narrative grounded in empathy, hope, and the search for meaning. Its portrayal of a family navigating extraordinary circumstances while holding onto faith and love speaks to universal themes that transcend time and place.

Furthermore, the novel's fusion of the ordinary with the extraordinary encourages readers to reflect on the miraculous aspects of everyday life, making it a compelling read for those interested in literature that bridges realism with spirituality.

In sum, Peace Like a River by Leif Enger stands as a testament to the power of storytelling to illuminate the human condition. Its nuanced characters, evocative prose, and exploration of profound themes secure its place as a significant work in contemporary American literature, inviting readers to journey alongside the Land family and discover peace amid the turbulence of life.

[Peace Like A River Leif Enger](#)

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peace like a river leif enger: Peace Like a River Leif Enger, 2018-10-04 When Israel Finch and Tommy Basca, the town bullies, break into the home of school caretaker Jeremiah Land, wielding a baseball bat and looking for trouble, they find more of it than even they expected. For seventeen-year-old Davey is sitting up in bed waiting for them with a Winchester rifle. His younger brother Reuben has seen their father perform miracles, but Jeremiah now seems as powerless to prevent Davey from being arrested for manslaughter, as he has always been to ease Reuben's daily spungy struggle to breathe. Nor does brave and brilliant nine-year-old Swede, obsessed as she is with the legends of the wild west, have the strength to spring Davey from jail. Yet Davey does manage to break out. He steals a horse, and disappears. His family feels his absence so sorely, the three of them just pile into their old Plymouth, towing a brand new 1963 Airstream trailer, and set out on a quest to find him. And they follow the outlaw west, right into the cold, wild and empty Dakota Badlands. Set in the 1960s on the edge of the Great Plains, PEACE LIKE A RIVER is that rare thing, a contemporary novel with an epic dimension. Told in the touching voice of an asthmatic eleven-year-old boy, it revels in the legends of the West, resonates with a soul-expanding sense of place, and vibrates with the possibility of magic in the everyday world. Above all, it shows how family, love, and faith can stand up to the most terrifying of enemies, the most tragic of fates.

peace like a river leif enger: *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Christian Fiction* Nancy M. Tischler, 2009-09-10 A biographical encyclopedia of American and British Christian-themed writers from World War II to the present, covering acclaimed literary works and popular evangelical fiction. *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Christian Fiction: From C.S. Lewis to Left Behind* spans the entire breadth of Christian-themed British and American writing from World War II to the present—well-known and less familiar authors, acclaimed literary novels, and popular writing in a variety of genres (mysteries, thrillers, romances), works that explore matters of faith, works that challenge orthodoxy and church practices, and works wholly written by and for devout evangelicals. *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Christian Fiction* offers 90 alphabetically organized entries covering the field's most important writers. Each entry includes a brief biography, religious and educational background, a survey of major works and themes, and a summary of critical response, as well as a bibliography of major works and criticism. By examining evocative, sometimes overlooked Christian elements in modern fiction, and by exploring the depth and scope of popular evangelical fiction, *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Christian Fiction* offers the richest, most complete portrait of the role of faith in modern English writing ever published.

peace like a river leif enger: Books and Beyond Kenneth Womack, 2008-10-30 There's a strong interest in reading for pleasure or self-improvement in America, as shown by the popularity of Harry Potter, and book clubs, including Oprah Winfrey's. Although recent government reports show a decline in recreational reading, the same reports show a strong correlation between interest in reading and academic achievement. This set provides a snapshot of the current state of popular American literature, including various types and genres. The volume presents alphabetically arranged entries on more than 70 diverse literary categories, such as cyberpunk, fantasy literature, flash fiction, GLBTQ literature, graphic novels, manga and anime, and zines. Each entry is written by an expert contributor and provides a definition of the genre, an overview of its history, a look at trends and themes, a discussion of how the literary form engages contemporary issues, a review of the genre's reception, a discussion of authors and works, and suggestions for further reading. Sidebars provide fascinating details, and the set closes with a selected, general bibliography. Reading in America for pleasure and knowledge continues to be popular, even while other media compete for attention. While students continue to read many of the standard classics, new genres have emerged. These have captured the attention of general readers and are also playing a critical role in the language arts classroom. This book maps the state of popular literature and reading in America today, including the growth of new genres, such as cyberpunk, zines, flash fiction, GLBTQ literature, and other topics. Each entry is written by an expert contributor and provides a definition of the genre, an overview of its history, a look at trends and themes, a discussion of how the literary form engages contemporary issues, a review of the genre's critical reception, a discussion of authors

and works, and suggestions for further reading. Sidebars provide fascinating details, and the set closes with a selected, general bibliography. Students will find this book a valuable guide to what they're reading today and will appreciate its illumination of popular culture and contemporary social issues.

peace like a river leif enger: Minnesota Travel Guide * The Land of a Thousand Lakes and Countless * USA eBook Baktash Vafaei, Welcome to an exciting adventure through the Land of a Thousand Lakes - Minnesota. This state in the Midwest of the United States is rich in breathtaking nature, fascinating history, diverse culture, and countless adventures. From the Great Lakes to the snowy winter landscapes, Minnesota offers a unique blend of beauty and challenge. Minnesota is more than just a geographical location; it is a promise of adventures waiting to be experienced. With a thousand lakes, dense forests, vibrant cities, and warm hospitality, this state exudes a very special appeal. It is a place where the splendour of the city and the silence of nature meet, where cultural diversity and the unique natural world intertwine. In this book, we invite you to discover the hidden gems of Minnesota, whether it's by exploring the unique culture of the Ojibwa and Dakota people, immersing yourself in Mississippi history, immersing yourself in the arts and music scene, or enjoying its culinary diversity. Minnesota has something for everyone, whether it's the adrenaline rush of winter sports or the laid-back atmosphere of small towns. Join us on this exciting journey through Minnesota, a land full of stories, secrets, and adventure. We will unearth the treasures of this state and explore the future of Minnesota as it faces the challenges of the 21st century. Minnesota is a place that begs to be discovered, and we can't wait to take you on this journey. Immerse yourself in the beauty and diversity of Minnesota and be enchanted by its uniqueness.

peace like a river leif enger: *The Power of Your Brain* Stan Toler, 2017-04-01 Imagine the Possibilities of a Mind Made New Do you find yourself stuck in negative thought patterns? Is your thinking disrupting your day and thwarting your goals? When you choose to take each thought captive to the obedience of Christ, you drive out the world's way of thinking that breeds depression, discontent, and despair—and make room for more joy, faith, and purpose. Let bestselling author Stan Toler teach you an easy four-step process for restoring order to your brain: Detoxification—remove the clutter from your mind Realignment—establish your thoughts on God's truth Reinforcement—bring others along on the journey Perseverance—maintain your positive momentum Are you ready to take back control of your thinking and embrace a new start? Experience the freedom of a mind transformed by God.

peace like a river leif enger: *The Attentive Life* Leighton Ford, 2013-10-01 Framed around the monastic concept of praying through the hours of the day, Leighton Ford helps you to develop spiritual attentiveness so you can pay attention to how God is working through you and in the world around you.

peace like a river leif enger: *Dictionary of Midwestern Literature, Volume Two* Philip A. Greasley, 2016-08-08 The Midwest has produced a robust literary heritage. Its authors have won half of the nation's Nobel Prizes for Literature plus a significant number of Pulitzer Prizes. This volume explores the rich racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity of the region. It also contains entries on 35 pivotal Midwestern literary works, literary genres, literary, cultural, historical, and social movements, state and city literatures, literary journals and magazines, as well as entries on science fiction, film, comic strips, graphic novels, and environmental writing. Prepared by a team of scholars, this second volume of the Dictionary of Midwestern Literature is a comprehensive resource that demonstrates the Midwest's continuing cultural vitality and the stature and distinctiveness of its literature.

peace like a river leif enger: *Scripture and the English Poetic Imagination* David Lyle Jeffrey, 2019-04-16 The God of the Bible often speaks in poetry. Beginning with an illuminating exploration of eloquence in the divine voice, a highly acclaimed professor of literature opens up the treasury of biblical tradition among English poets both past and present, showing them to be well attuned not only to Scripture's meaning but also to its music. In exploring the work of various poets, David Lyle Jeffrey demonstrates how the poetry of the Bible affords a register of understanding in

which the beauty of Holy Scripture deepens meditation on its truth and is indeed a vital part of that truth.

peace like a river leif enger: The Pastor's Bookshelf Austin Carty, 2022-04-05 Preaching Magazine Book of the Year (2022) Hearts & Minds Best Books List (2022) Christianity Today Award of Merit in Church & Pastoral Leadership (2023) It's time to give pastors permission to read books besides the Bible. Six months into his first senior pastorate, Austin Carty sat in his office reading—not the Bible, not a commentary, not a theological tract, but a novel by Fyodor Dostoevsky. As the minutes turned to hours, while he sat engrossed in this book, he noticed something: he began feeling uneasy. And then anxious. And then guilty. What would someone think if they opened the door and caught him reading fiction? For busy pastors (is there any other kind?), time spent reading feels hard to justify, especially when it's not for sermon prep. But what if reading felt less like a luxury and more like a vocational responsibility—a spiritual practice that bears fruit in every aspect of ministry, from preaching to pastoral care to church leadership? Austin Carty believes that this is exactly how pastors ought to think about reading. The Pastor's Bookshelf shows how worthwhile reading is more about formation than information and how, through reading, a pastor becomes a fuller, more enriched human being with a deeper capacity for wisdom and love, better equipped to understand and work for God's kingdom.

peace like a river leif enger: Banned Questions About the Bible Christian D Piatt, 2011-03-31 From Christian Piatt: When I was a teenager, my youth minister threw a bible at my head for asking questions. Too often, for various reasons, people don't have the opportunity to ask the hard questions they have about faith, religion, salvation and the bible. And when questions are left unanswered in communities of faith, people either seek answers elsewhere or lose interest all together. The purpose of the series is to collect the most compelling and challenging questions from various theological areas and pose them to a panel of experts who are challenged with responding in two hundred words or less in plain English. This volume addresses challenging or controversial questions about scripture collected from people on Facebook, MySpace, Twitter and other social networking media. Respondents include theology professors, clergy, lay leaders, liberals, conservatives and voices representing a spectrum of views. The idea behind the books is not so much to provide definitive answers as it is to stimulate thought, reflection and discussion. By offering multiple perspectives, readers have the opportunity to arrive at their own questions. Better, they come to understand that questioning faith is not taboo, but rather that it can be at the foundation of a strong and growing faith. The directive given to each respondent guided them to be concise and to speak in plain language, but also not to rely exclusively on the Bible says it justifications, or to wax abstract or overly intellectual. Instead, they write from personal experience as much as possible, and provide real-life contexts that will allow the average seeker or churchgoer to apply such ideas to their daily lives.

peace like a river leif enger: At the Still Point Sarah Arthur, 2011-06-01 This is a guide to prayer for the liturgical season known as Ordinary Time—that long stretch from Pentecost to Advent. However, it is not an ordinary guide to prayer. It does not contain readings from spiritual or devotional writings, discussing spiritual or devotional things through discursive thought. Rather, it is a journey of the imagination guided by poets and authors, both classic and contemporary, who have known the things of God but speak in metaphor. These are writers who tell the truth, as Emily Dickinson put it, but they “tell it slant.” In not stating out loud what they know, they have left much to our imaginations—which is a way of saying they have trusted the Holy Spirit.

peace like a river leif enger: Lone Dog Road Kent Nerburn, 2025-05-20 A tale of compassion and redemption from an award-winning author whose writing Louise Erdrich has praised as “storytelling with a greatness of heart” During the drought-stricken summer of 1950, two Lakota boys, ages eleven and six, huddle in a boxcar hurtling through the prairie night as they run from a government agent sent to take the younger boy to an Indian boarding school. But what begins as a pursuit soon becomes a complex drama of intersecting lives as the boys make their way across the vast Dakota plains to the pipestone quarries of western Minnesota to replace their

great-grandfather's channunpa, or sacred pipe, that was broken by the agent. Alive with a rich tapestry of characters the boys meet along their journey, this riveting story is at once an exploration of the hidden corners of the human heart and a moving study of the way the land shapes the people who live, love, dream, and die upon it. Sprawling yet intimate, Lone Dog Road is destined to take its place in the grand tradition of great American road novels.

peace like a river leif enger: Entertaining Judgment Greg Garrett, 2015 Nowadays references to the afterlife-angels strumming harps, demons brandishing pitchforks, God enthroned on heavenly clouds-are more often encountered in New Yorker cartoons than in serious Christian theological reflection. Speculation about death and its sequel seems to embarrass many theologians; however, as Greg Garrett shows in *Entertaining Judgment*, popular culture in the U.S. has found rich ground for creative expression in the search for answers to the question: What lies in store for us after we die? The lyrics of Madonna, Los Lonely Boys, and Sean Combs; the plotlines of TV's *Lost*, *South Park*, and *The Walking Dead*; the implied theology in films such as *The Dark Knight*, *Ghost*, and *Field of Dreams*; the heavenly half-light of Thomas Kinkade's popular paintings; the ghosts, shades, and after-life way-stations in *Harry Potter*; and the characters, situations, and locations in the *Hunger Games* saga all speak to our hopes and fears about what comes next. In a rich survey of literature and popular media, Garrett compares cultural accounts of death and the afterlife with those found in scripture. Denizens of the imagined afterlife, whether in heaven, hell, on earth, or in purgatory, speak to what awaits us, at once shaping and reflecting our deeply held-if often somewhat nebulous-beliefs. They show us what rewards and punishments we might expect, offer us divine assistance, and even diabolically attack us. Ultimately, we are drawn to these stories of heaven, hell, and purgatory--and to stories about death and the undead--not only because they entertain us, but because they help us to create meaning and to learn about ourselves, our world, and, perhaps, the next world. Garrett's deft analysis sheds new light on what popular culture can tell us about the startlingly sharp divide between what modern people profess to believe and what they truly hope and expect to find after death--and how they use those stories to help them understand this life.

peace like a river leif enger: Finding Your Plot in a Plotless World Daniel de Roulet, 2007-08-01 The world fell apart for author Daniel de Roulet the moment his son was diagnosed with autism. In *Finding Your Plot in a Plotless World*, de Roulet takes a closer look at those devastating moments in everyone's lives and the journey that follows. What do we do when our sense of God's plan for our lives crumbles around us? How do we find our plots in a seemingly plotless world? For answers, de Roulet looks to stories--those of our own culture and the Bible. Along the way, de Roulet encourages readers to be authentic as they tell their own stories and leaves them with hope that God reveals himself through our messy lives. EXCERPT Let me make something clear: I am convinced that for Christians, even in the darkest night, there is joy in the morning. God does work all things together--however unlikely the parts--for good for those who love him. But the roads of our progress from darkness to light will often be through murky or unpleasant waters, and our discoveries may not be as whole or as resounding as one could hope. But talking about the whole journey--darkness and light--is being honest to the condition of being human, and perhaps we can help others to begin to make the leap between the difficulties of the now and the promises of the not yet. Successful storytellers and teachers tend to meet their audiences where they are--not where they want them to be. There are times for all of us, Christian and non-Christian alike, when the world seems dark and senseless and morning seems far off, and these times are often when God's plot is the most relevant. And so this book talks about a journey from plotlessness to plot. Its chapters are meant to be guides for both reading God's stories: narratives that I think God uses to reach down into our own experiences and tell us about himself, and our own stories: the words that we use to tell our experiences to each other and, I believe, to God.

peace like a river leif enger: I Will Not Leave You Comfortless Jeremy Jackson, 2012 A coming-of-age story chronicles the author's life at eleven years old in rural Missouri, a year in which he fell in love for the first time, his sister left for college, and his grandmother died.

peace like a river leif enger: *Asthma: The Biography* Mark Jackson, 2009-10-08 Asthma is a familiar and growing disease today, but its story goes back to the ancient world, as we know from accounts in ancient texts from China, India, Greece and Rome. It was treated with acupuncture and Ayurveda. As Western medicine developed, the nature of asthma became clearer, and its basis in the lungs recognized. But cultural perceptions of the disease shifted too. By the 18th century, with recognition that the disease was centred on the lungs, the idea of environmental triggers such as dust and smoke first became recognized. And with that, asthma also became identified as a disease of artisans. Things changed again in the 19th century, as medical understanding grew with the advent of the stethoscope and new techniques such as percussion of the chest. New treatments included the promotion of mountain spas, for asthma now rose in social status, and became associated with the upper classes and the literati. For Marcel Proust and Charles Dickens, asthma shaped their lives and their creativity. From early in the 20th century, the idea of asthma as an allergic disease became established, and the search for environmental causes was on. Hay fever was closely linked, and pharmaceutical companies began to make antihistamines, anti-inflammatories and bronchodilators. Asthma sufferers were warned to beware of pets, simplify their furnishings, and take holidays by the sea far from pollens. But a newly emerging concept was that attacks could be triggered by stress and psychological factors. With musicians such as Schoenberg and Berg as celebrity sufferers, the idea of asthma as an elite disease persisted. In recent years, attitudes have changed again, as incidences of asthma grew dramatically across the world, especially among the young. The disease has now become closely linked to modern lifestyles and the many products of civilization. The battle against house-dust mites began, and whole new lines of anti-allergenic products and foods were launched - asthma has proved highly lucrative over the years. But the disease has remained fashionable, even becoming the theme of several pop songs. *Asthma: the biography* is part of the Oxford series, *Biographies of Diseases*, edited by William and Helen Bynum. In each individual volume an expert historian of medicine tells the story of a particular disease or condition throughout history - not only in terms of growing medical understanding of its nature and cure, but also shifting social and cultural attitudes, and changes in the meaning of the name of the disease itself.

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celebrates simple pleasures and not-so-simple love.--JULIE CANTRELL, New York Times and USA Today bestselling author of Perennials

peace like a river leif enger: *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Writers and Their Work* Geoff Hamilton, Brian Jones, 2015-04-22 Presents an alphabetical reference guide detailing the lives and works of authors associated with the English-language fiction of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

peace like a river leif enger: *Reading Reasons* Kelly Gallagher, 2023-10-10 In *Reading Reasons: Motivational Mini-Lessons for Middle and High School*, author and teacher Kelly Gallagher offers a series of mini-lessons specifically tailored to motivate middle and high school students to read, and in doing so, to help them understand the importance and relevance reading will take in their lives. This book introduces and explains in detail nine specific real-world reasons why students should be readers. The book contains 40 practical, classroom-tested and reproducible mini-lessons that get to the heart of reading motivation and that can be used immediately in English and other content-area classrooms. These easy-to-use motivational lessons serve as weekly reading booster shots that help maintain reading enthusiasm in your classroom from September through June. The mini-lessons, ranging from 5-20 minutes in length, hit home with adolescents, and in turn, enable them to internalize the importance reading will play in their lives. Rather than telling students reading is good for them, the lessons in this book show them the benefits of reading.

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