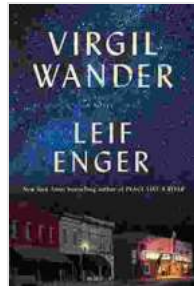


# Virgil Wander by Leif Enger



## Virgil Wander by Leif Enger

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 3579 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 359 pages



Virgil Wander is a novel by Leif Enger that was published in 2008. It tells the story of Virgil Wander, a young man who leaves home to fight in the Civil War. After the war, Virgil returns home and struggles to adjust to civilian life. He eventually finds solace in the wilderness, where he becomes a hermit.

## Plot

The novel begins in 1861, as Virgil Wander leaves his home in Minnesota to join the Union Army. He fights in several battles, including the Battle of Gettysburg, and is eventually wounded and discharged from the army. After the war, Virgil returns home, but he finds it difficult to adjust to civilian life. He is haunted by the memories of the war, and he feels alienated from his family and friends.

One day, Virgil decides to leave home and live in the wilderness. He travels to the remote Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in northern Minnesota, where he builds a cabin and lives off the land. Virgil becomes a hermit, and he spends his days fishing, hunting, and reading. He also develops a deep connection to the natural world, and he comes to see the wilderness as his true home.

One day, Virgil meets a young woman named Eunice. Eunice is a member of the Ojibwe tribe, and she is also a hermit. Virgil and Eunice form a bond, and they begin to share their lives with each other. Virgil teaches Eunice how to fish and hunt, and Eunice teaches Virgil about the Ojibwe culture. Virgil and Eunice eventually fall in love, and they live together in the wilderness for many years.

## Characters

- **Virgil Wander:** The protagonist of the novel. Virgil is a young man who leaves home to fight in the Civil War. After the war, he returns home and struggles to adjust to civilian life. He eventually finds solace in the wilderness, where he becomes a hermit.
- **Eunice:** A young woman who is a member of the Ojibwe tribe. Eunice is also a hermit, and she lives in the wilderness with Virgil. She teaches Virgil about the Ojibwe culture, and they eventually fall in love.
- **Reverend Robert Parr:** A minister who is Virgil's friend. Reverend Parr tries to help Virgil adjust to civilian life after the war, but Virgil eventually leaves home to live in the wilderness.
- **Sarah:** Virgil's wife. Sarah is a kind and loving woman, but she is unable to understand Virgil's need to live in the wilderness.

- **Henry:** Virgil's son. Henry is a bright and curious boy, but he is also troubled by Virgil's absence from his life.

## Themes

Virgil Wander is a novel that explores a number of themes, including:

- **The search for meaning:** Virgil Wander is a man who is searching for meaning in his life. He fights in the Civil War, but he is unable to find peace after the war. He eventually finds solace in the wilderness, where he develops a deep connection to the natural world.
- **The importance of community:** Virgil Wander is a hermit, but he also finds solace in the community of the wilderness. He meets Eunice, and they form a bond that helps him to heal from the wounds of the war.
- **The power of nature:** The wilderness is a powerful force in Virgil Wander's life. It is a place where he can find peace and healing. The wilderness also teaches him about the importance of community and the search for meaning.

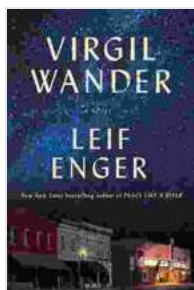
## Critical reception

Virgil Wander has received critical acclaim. It was a finalist for the National Book Award for Fiction in 2008, and it won the Minnesota Book Award for Fiction in 2009. The novel has been praised for its beautiful prose, its complex characters, and its exploration of important themes.

Michiko Kakutani of The New York Times wrote, "Virgil Wander is a novel of rare beauty and power, a story that will stay with you long after you finish it." John Updike of The New Yorker wrote, "Leif Enger has written a novel of deep feeling and rich imagination, a novel that is both timeless and timely."

Ron Charles of The Washington Post wrote, "Virgil Wander is a masterpiece, a novel that will be read and cherished for generations to come."

Virgil Wander is a beautiful and moving novel that explores the important themes of the search for meaning, the importance of community, and the power of nature. The novel is written with beautiful prose, and the characters are complex and unforgettable. Virgil Wander is a novel that will stay with you long after you finish it.



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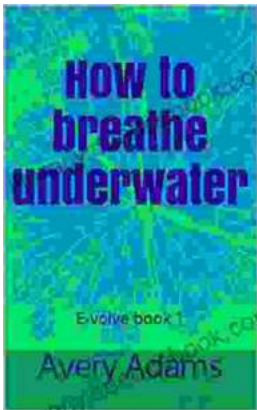
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