



## Peace Like a River

By Leif Enger

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**Peace Like a River** By Leif Enger

Hailed as one of the year's top five novels by Time, and selected as one of the best books of the year by nearly all major newspapers, national bestseller Peace Like a River captured the hearts of a nation in need of comfort. "A rich mixture of adventure, tragedy, and healing," Peace Like a River is "a collage of legends from sources sacred and profane -- from the Old Testament to the Old West, from the Gospels to police dramas" (Ron Charles, The Christian Science Monitor). In "lyrical, openhearted prose" (Michael Glitz, The New York Post), Enger tells the story of eleven-year-old Reuben Land, an asthmatic boy who has reason to believe in miracles. Along with his sister and father, Reuben finds himself on a cross-country search for his outlaw older brother who has been controversially charged with murder. Their journey is touched by serendipity and the kindness of strangers, and its remarkable conclusion shows how family, love, and faith can stand up to the most terrifying of enemies, the most tragic of fates. Leif Enger's "miraculous" (Valerie Ryan, The Seattle Times) novel is a "perfect book for an anxious time ... of great literary merit that nonetheless restores readers' faith in the kindness of stories" (Marta Salij, Detroit Free Press).

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# Peace Like a River

By *Leif Enger*

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## Peace Like a River By Leif Enger Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

To the list of great American child narrators that includes Huck Finn and Scout Finch, let us now add Reuben "Rube" Land, the asthmatic 11-year-old boy at the center of Leif Enger's remarkable first novel, *Peace Like a River*. Rube recalls the events of his childhood, in small-town Minnesota circa 1962, in a voice that perfectly captures the poetic, verbal stoicism of the northern Great Plains. "Here's what I saw," Rube warns his readers. "Here's how it went. Make of it what you will." And Rube sees plenty.

In the winter of his 11th year, two schoolyard bullies break into the Lands' house, and Rube's big brother Davy guns them down with a Winchester. Shortly after his arrest, Davy breaks out of jail and goes on the lam. Swede is Rube's younger sister, a precocious writer who crafts rhymed epics of romantic Western outlawry. Shortly after Davy's escape, Rube, Swede, and their father, a widowed school custodian, hit the road too, swerving this way and that across Minnesota and North Dakota, determined to find their lost outlaw Davy. In the end it's not Rube who haunts the reader's imagination, it's his father, torn between love for his outlaw son and the duty to do the right, honest thing. Enger finds something quietly heroic in the bred-in-the-bone Minnesota decency of America's heartland. *Peace Like a River* opens up a new chapter in Midwestern literature. --*Claire Dederer*

#### From Publishers Weekly

Dead for 10 minutes before his father orders him to breathe in the name of the living God, Reuben Land is living proof that the world is full of miracles. But it's the impassioned honesty of his quiet, measured narrative voice that gives weight and truth to the fantastic elements of this engrossing tale. From the vantage point of adulthood, Reuben tells how his father rescued his brother Davy's girlfriend from two attackers, how that led to Davy being jailed for murder and how, once Davy escapes and heads south for the Badlands of North Dakota, 12-year-old Reuben, his younger sister Swede and their janitor father light out after him. But the FBI is following Davy as well, and Reuben has a part to play in the finale of that chase, just as he had a part to play in his brother's trial. It's the kind of story that used to be material for ballads, and Enger twines in numerous references to the Old West, chiefly through the rhymed poetry Swede writes about a hero called Sunny Sundown. That the story is set in the early '60s in Minnesota gives it an archetypal feel, evoking a time when the possibility of getting lost in the country still existed. Enger has created a world of signs, where dead crows fall in a snowstorm and vagrants lie curled up in fields, in which everything is significant, everything has weight and comprehension is always fleeting. This is a stunning debut novel, one that sneaks up on you like a whisper and warms you like a quilt in a North Dakota winter, a novel about faith, miracles and family that is, ultimately, miraculous.

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#### From Library Journal

Fair or not, Enger's first novel will inevitably be compared to the work of Garrison Keillor: both men are veterans of Minnesota Public Radio, and the book very much shares the spirit of Keillor's radio work and fiction, with its quiet, observant gaze capturing the beauty of simple things, related through wise and thoughtful characters in this case, the Land family from North Dakota. Asthmatic youngster Reuben Land tells the admittedly shaggy-dog story of his older brother Davy, who shoots and kills two violent intruders as they break into the family's home; Davy is convicted but manages to flee. Both the Lands and the law follow in hot pursuit, but the family seems to have support from a higher power father Jeremiah himself has

performed a miracle or two in his lifetime (walking on water, healing the afflicted with his touch, and the like). Biblical allusions abound, and fantastic things happen, such as the patriarch's four-mile tour via tornado. "Make of it what you will," says Reuben. A low-key charmer for literary collections.

- *Marc Kloszewski, Indiana Free Lib., PA*

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## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### Jason Nunez:

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to the Mall. How about open or maybe read a book entitled Peace Like a River? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have different opinion?

#### Bertha Chang:

What do you think of book? It is just for students as they are still students or this for all people in the world, exactly what the best subject for that? Only you can be answered for that query above. Every person has various personality and hobby for every other. Don't to be obligated someone or something that they don't desire do that. You must know how great and important the book Peace Like a River. All type of book could you see on many resources. You can look for the internet solutions or other social media.

#### Mae Bushee:

Many people spending their moment by playing outside with friends, fun activity along with family or just watching TV all day every day. You can have new activity to spend your whole day by reading through a book. Ugh, ya think reading a book can definitely hard because you have to bring the book everywhere? It fine you can have the e-book, taking everywhere you want in your Touch screen phone. Like Peace Like a River which is getting the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's observe.

#### Walter Knight:

Book is one of source of information. We can add our expertise from it. Not only for students but in addition native or citizen will need book to know the revise information of year to help year. As we know those textbooks have many advantages. Beside all of us add our knowledge, can also bring us to around the world. Through the book Peace Like a River we can acquire more advantage. Don't you to definitely be creative people? For being creative person must want to read a book. Only choose the best book that acceptable with your aim. Don't become doubt to change your life by this book Peace Like a River. You can more attractive than now.

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