



Crossing to Safety (Modern Library Classics)

By Wallace Stegner

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Crossing to Safety (Modern Library Classics) By Wallace Stegner

Introduction by Terry Tempest Williams

Afterword by T. H. Watkins

?Called a “magnificently crafted story . . . brimming with wisdom” by Howard Frank Mosher in *The Washington Post Book World*, *Crossing to Safety* has, since its publication in 1987, established itself as one of the greatest and most cherished American novels of the twentieth century. Tracing the lives, loves, and aspirations of two couples who move between Vermont and Wisconsin, it is a work of quiet majesty, deep compassion, and powerful insight into the alchemy of friendship and marriage.

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Crossing to Safety (Modern Library Classics) By Wallace Stegner Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

It's deceptively simple: two bright young couples meet during the Depression and form an instant and lifelong friendship. "How do you make a book that anyone will read out of lives as quiet as these?" Larry Morgan, a successful novelist and the narrator of the story, poses that question many years after he and his wife, Sally, have befriended the vibrant, wealthy, and often troubled Sid and Charity Lang. "Where is the high life, the conspicuous waste, the violence, the kinky sex, the death wish?" It's not here. What is here is just as fascinating, just as compelling, as touching, and as tragic.

Crossing to Safety is about loyalty and survival in its most everyday form--the need to create bonds and the urge to tear them apart. Thirty-four years after their first meeting, when Larry and Sally are called back to the Langs' summer home in Vermont, it's as if for a final showdown. How has this friendship defined them? What is its legacy? Stegner offers answers in those small, perfectly rendered moments that make up lives "as quiet as these"--and as familiar as our own. --Sara Nickerson

From Publishers Weekly

Adding to a distinguished body of work that already has earned him a Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award and on the 50th anniversary of the publication of his first novel Stegner's new book is an eloquent, wise and immensely moving narrative. It is a meditation on the idealism and spirit of youth, when the world is full of promise, and on the blows and compromises life inevitably inflicts. Two couples meet during the Depression years in Madison, Wis., and become devoted friends despite vast differences in upbringing and social status. Hard work, hope and the will to succeed as a writer motivate the penurious narrator Larry Morgan and his wife Sally as he begins a term teaching at the university. Equally excited by their opportunities are Sid Lang, another junior man in the English department, and his wife Charity. They are fortune's children, favored with intelligence, breeding and money. Taken into the Langs' nourishing and generous embrace, the Morgans have many reasons for gratitude over the years, especially when Sally is afflicted with polio and the Langs provide financial as well as moral support. During visits at the Langs' summer home on Battell Pond in Vermont and later sharing a year in Florence, the couples feel that they are "four in Eden." Yet the Morgans observe the stresses in their friends' marriage as headstrong, insufferably well-organized Charity tries to bully the passive Sid into a more aggressive mold. Charity is one of the most vivid characters in fiction; if she is arrogant, she is also kindhearted, enthusiastic, stalwart and brave an ardent liver of life. Her incandescent personality is both the dominant force and the source of strain in the enduring friendship Stegner conveys with brilliant artistry. He is also superb at expressing a sense of place, and his intelligent voice makes cogent observations on American society in the decades of his setting. But most importantly, he speaks to us of universal questions, reflecting on "the miserable failure of the law of nature to conform to the dream of man." In doing so, he has created a believable human drama the dimensions of which reach out beyond the story's end and resonate in the reader's heart. BOMC and QPBC alternates; Franklin Library Signed First Edition Society selection.

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From Library Journal

Stegner published his first novel 50 years ago. Since then he has won both a Pulitzer Prize (for *Angle of Repose*, 1971) and the National Book Award (for *The Spectator Bird*, 1976). His latest effort, an exploration into the mysteries of friendship, deserves similar accolades. With a quiet but strong hand, he traces the bond that develops between Charity and Sid Lang and Sally and Larry Morgan from their first meeting in 1937 through their eventual separation to their final get-together in 1972 when Charity is dying of cancer and is

determined "to do it right," no matter what anyone else thinks. It seems only appropriate that Charity bring them together since she has been the driving force behind the relationship. As we discover now, her bull-headedness has had its price. This is a wonderfully rich, warm, and affecting book. Highly recommended. David W. Henderson, Eckerd Coll. Lib., St. Petersburg, Fla.
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ella Cook:

Book is definitely written, printed, or illustrated for everything. You can realize everything you want by a reserve. Book has a different type. To be sure that book is important thing to bring us around the world. Next to that you can your reading ability was fluently. A book Crossing to Safety (Modern Library Classics) will make you to possibly be smarter. You can feel a lot more confidence if you can know about every thing. But some of you think in which open or reading any book make you bored. It isn't make you fun. Why they can be thought like that? Have you searching for best book or ideal book with you?

Carrie Porter:

Now a day people that Living in the era just where everything reachable by connect to the internet and the resources inside it can be true or not need people to be aware of each details they get. How people have to be smart in having any information nowadays? Of course the solution is reading a book. Reading a book can help individuals out of this uncertainty Information especially this Crossing to Safety (Modern Library Classics) book because book offers you rich data and knowledge. Of course the info in this book hundred percent guarantees there is no doubt in it everbody knows.

Sherrill Height:

Nowadays reading books become more and more than want or need but also become a life style. This reading behavior give you lot of advantages. The advantages you got of course the knowledge even the information inside the book which improve your knowledge and information. The info you get based on what kind of guide you read, if you want have more knowledge just go with training books but if you want truly feel happy read one along with theme for entertaining for instance comic or novel. The particular Crossing to Safety (Modern Library Classics) is kind of reserve which is giving the reader unforeseen experience.

Shirley Hinkle:

Is it a person who having spare time subsequently spend it whole day by simply watching television programs or just lying down on the bed? Do you need something new? This Crossing to Safety (Modern Library Classics) can be the solution, oh how comes? A book you know. You are therefore out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this completely new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these publications have than the others?

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