### we are water by wally lamb

\*\*We Are Water by Wally Lamb: A Deep Dive into Healing, Identity, and Resilience\*\*

we are water by wally lamb is a novel that invites readers on an emotional journey through trauma, healing, and the intricate bonds that shape our identities. Wally Lamb, known for his compelling storytelling and richly drawn characters, crafts a narrative in this book that resonates deeply with anyone who has faced the complexities of family, memory, and personal transformation.

# Understanding the Essence of We Are Water by Wally Lamb

At its core, \*We Are Water\* explores themes of resilience and the enduring strength of human spirit in the face of adversity. Set against the backdrop of a small, close-knit community, the story centers on a young woman named Grace and the mysterious disappearance of her mother. This event triggers a cascade of revelations that not only affect Grace but ripple through the lives of those around her.

Wally Lamb's skillful weaving of past and present timelines enriches the narrative, giving readers a layered understanding of the characters' motivations and struggles. The novel also delves into the psychological effects of trauma, showcasing how individuals cope with pain and loss in different ways.

### The Significance of Water as a Symbol

One of the standout features of \*We Are Water\* is the symbolic use of water throughout the novel. Water represents both the fluidity of identity and the cleansing, transformative power of confronting one's past. Much like water's ability to erode and reshape landscapes over time, the characters in the novel undergo profound personal shifts as they navigate their fears and secrets.

This metaphor adds a poetic dimension to the story, encouraging readers to reflect on the ways we are all shaped by forces beyond our control, yet retain the power to reshape ourselves.

### Character Development and Emotional Complexity

Wally Lamb is renowned for his characters who are deeply flawed yet incredibly human, and \*We Are Water\* is no exception. Grace, the protagonist, is portrayed with nuance and empathy. She embodies the struggle of reconciling painful memories with the desire for hope and renewal.

Supporting characters, including Grace's friends and family, are equally well-developed. Each person's backstory and emotional wounds are carefully unpacked throughout the novel, which adds richness and realism to the narrative.

### The Role of Trauma and Healing in the Story

Trauma is a central theme in \*We Are Water by Wally Lamb\*. The novel doesn't shy away from depicting the harsh realities of abuse and loss, but it also highlights the possibility of healing. Lamb's portrayal of therapy, community support, and personal resilience offers a hopeful perspective that is both inspiring and informative.

Readers can gain insights into the psychological impact of trauma and the varied paths toward recovery. This makes the book not only a compelling read but also a meaningful conversation starter about mental health and emotional well-being.

### Setting and Atmosphere: The Influence of Place

The setting in \*We Are Water\* plays a crucial role in shaping the story's tone and mood. The small-town environment, with its close relationships and sometimes stifling dynamics, acts almost like another character in the narrative. It reflects themes of belonging and isolation simultaneously.

Wally Lamb's vivid descriptions bring the setting to life, immersing readers in the sights, sounds, and culture of the community. This atmospheric depth enhances the emotional impact of the story and makes the characters' experiences feel immediate and authentic.

### How the Setting Enhances the Narrative

- The town's proximity to water bodies underscores the novel's central symbolism.
- The community's interconnectedness heightens the tension and stakes of the unfolding mystery.
- Seasonal changes mirror the characters' emotional journeys, from winter's

## Why We Are Water by Wally Lamb Resonates with Readers

One reason \*We Are Water\* stands out in contemporary fiction is its ability to tackle difficult subjects with sensitivity and hope. Lamb's compassionate writing invites readers to empathize with characters who might otherwise feel distant or overwhelming.

Additionally, the novel's exploration of identity, family secrets, and the quest for truth appeals to a wide audience. Whether you're drawn to psychological dramas or stories about human connection, this book offers a rich, layered experience.

### What Makes Wally Lamb's Style Unique in This Novel

- \*\*Authentic Dialogue:\*\* The conversations feel natural and reveal character depth.
- \*\*Interwoven Timelines:\*\* The shifting perspectives keep readers engaged and curious.
- \*\*Emotional Honesty:\*\* Lamb does not gloss over pain but presents it with care and nuance.

# Tips for Readers Approaching We Are Water by Wally Lamb

If you're planning to dive into \*We Are Water\*, here are a few suggestions to enhance your reading experience:

- Take your time: The novel's rich character development and complex themes benefit from a thoughtful, unhurried read.
- **Reflect on the symbolism:** Pay attention to how water imagery recurs and what it might represent in different contexts.
- Consider the mental health themes: The book offers valuable insights into trauma and healing that can prompt meaningful reflection or discussion.
- Engage with the community aspect: Notice how relationships shape the characters' paths and how community dynamics influence personal growth.

## Incorporating We Are Water by Wally Lamb into Broader Conversations

Beyond its narrative appeal, \*We Are Water\* offers a platform for engaging discussions about important social issues such as abuse, mental health stigma, and the power of storytelling in healing. Book clubs, therapy groups, or educational settings can use this novel as a springboard for meaningful dialogue.

Wally Lamb's compassionate approach makes difficult topics accessible without sensationalism, encouraging empathy and understanding.

Exploring the novel's themes can also inspire readers to think about their own experiences with resilience and identity, fostering a deeper connection with the story.

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In essence, \*We Are Water by Wally Lamb\* is more than just a novel—it's an exploration of the human condition that lingers long after the final page. Whether you're captivated by its emotional depth, its symbolic richness, or its compelling characters, this book offers a powerful reminder of the strength found in vulnerability and the possibility of renewal through confronting our past.

### Frequently Asked Questions

## What is the central theme of 'We Are Water' by Wally Lamb?

The central theme of 'We Are Water' revolves around family dynamics, healing, and the interconnectedness of personal and environmental histories.

## Who is the protagonist in 'We Are Water' and what challenges do they face?

The protagonist is Lucy, a woman grappling with her identity and family secrets while dealing with the aftermath of a personal tragedy.

## How does Wally Lamb incorporate environmental issues in 'We Are Water'?

Lamb weaves environmental concerns throughout the narrative, highlighting the

importance of water conservation and the impact of human actions on nature.

## What role does family history play in the novel 'We Are Water'?

Family history is crucial as it shapes the characters' identities and influences their decisions, revealing hidden truths and fostering reconciliation.

## How does the setting influence the story in 'We Are Water'?

The setting, often connected to water bodies, serves as a metaphor for cleansing, renewal, and the flow of life, deeply affecting the characters' journeys.

### What narrative style does Wally Lamb use in 'We Are Water'?

Lamb employs a multi-perspective narrative style, allowing readers to understand different characters' viewpoints and emotional depths.

### Are there any significant secondary characters in 'We Are Water'?

Yes, several secondary characters contribute to the protagonist's growth and the unfolding of the plot, each adding layers to the family saga.

## What message does 'We Are Water' convey about healing and forgiveness?

The novel emphasizes that healing and forgiveness are essential for personal growth and mending fractured relationships within families.

## How has 'We Are Water' been received by critics and readers?

The novel has been praised for its emotional depth, complex characters, and timely themes, resonating with readers interested in family drama and environmental issues.

### **Additional Resources**

### We Are Water by Wally Lamb: A Deep Dive into the Author's Poignant Exploration of Trauma and Healing

we are water by wally lamb emerges as a compelling addition to the acclaimed author's oeuvre, offering readers a rich tapestry of emotional depth, complex characters, and a thoughtful meditation on the human condition. Known primarily for his bestselling novels such as \*I Know This Much Is True\* and \*She's Come Undone\*, Wally Lamb's \*We Are Water\* continues his tradition of delving into difficult, often painful personal histories while exploring themes of resilience, identity, and redemption.

This novel stands as a testament to Lamb's skill in weaving narratives that are both intimate and expansive, touching on broader societal issues without sacrificing the nuanced portrayal of individual lives. Through \*We Are Water\*, Lamb invites readers to consider how past traumas ripple through generations and how the water—both literal and metaphorical—shapes and sustains the characters' survival and transformation.

### In-depth Analysis of We Are Water by Wally Lamb

Weaving together multiple perspectives and timelines, \*We Are Water by Wally Lamb\* presents a multi-layered story anchored in the fictional town of Three Rivers, Connecticut. The narrative's central figure, Paul Grasso, is a former Marine and an artist grappling with the aftermath of personal and collective tragedies. Lamb's choice to frame the novel around water as a symbol is intentional and multifaceted: water represents life, memory, cleansing, and the unstoppable force of time.

One of the standout features of \*We Are Water\* is Lamb's meticulous character development. Paul Grasso emerges as a deeply flawed yet empathetic protagonist whose internal struggles mirror the external challenges faced by the community. The author adopts a journalistic approach in some passages, presenting detailed accounts of the town's history and the environmental disaster that serves as a backdrop to the personal stories. This blend of the personal and the political enriches the narrative, allowing readers to engage with issues such as environmental degradation, mental health, and the complexities of caregiving.

### Thematic Exploration: Trauma, Memory, and Healing

At its core, \*We Are Water by Wally Lamb\* is a profound exploration of trauma and the ways in which individuals and communities attempt to heal. Lamb does not shy away from depicting the raw, often uncomfortable realities of abuse, loss, and mental illness. Instead, he approaches these themes with

sensitivity and nuance, avoiding sensationalism while maintaining emotional intensity.

The motif of water permeates the novel—not only as a physical element but as a metaphor for the flow of memories and emotions. Characters are often depicted confronting their pasts much like one would navigate a turbulent river: with caution, fear, and occasional surrender. This symbolism is particularly effective in illustrating the characters' journeys towards acceptance and reconciliation.

### Character Dynamics and Narrative Structure

Lamb employs a multi-voiced narrative structure that allows for a comprehensive view of the events unfolding in Three Rivers. Through alternating perspectives, readers gain insight into the internal worlds of diverse characters, each carrying their own burdens and secrets. This approach deepens the reader's understanding of how interconnected lives can shape and influence one another, especially within a tight-knit community.

The pacing of the novel balances moments of introspection with more plotdriven sequences, such as the investigation into the environmental crisis that threatens the town. This blend of personal drama and broader societal concerns is one of the novel's defining strengths, offering a layered reading experience that appeals to both literary fiction enthusiasts and readers interested in contemporary social issues.

### Comparisons with Lamb's Previous Works

For readers familiar with Wally Lamb's previous novels, \*We Are Water\* will feel both familiar and distinct. Like \*I Know This Much Is True\*, this novel delves deeply into family dynamics and the long shadows cast by mental illness. However, \*We Are Water\* expands its scope by integrating environmental themes and a stronger emphasis on community resilience.

The novel's focus on an environmental disaster is a departure from Lamb's earlier, more intimate family dramas. This shift marks an evolution in his storytelling, reflecting a growing awareness of the intersection between personal trauma and larger societal challenges. Lamb's ability to maintain his signature emotional depth while addressing these broader themes is a testament to his versatility as a writer.

### Pros and Cons of We Are Water by Wally Lamb

• Pros:

- Intricate character development with authentic emotional resonance.
- Thoughtful integration of environmental and social issues.
- Engaging multi-perspective narrative that enriches the storyline.
- Symbolic use of water adds thematic depth and cohesion.
- Balances personal trauma with hope and healing.

#### • Cons:

- Some readers may find the pacing uneven due to the alternating narrative focus.
- The novel's length and detail-heavy prose might feel dense for casual readers.
- Emotional intensity may be challenging for those sensitive to depictions of trauma.

# The Impact of Environmental Themes in We Are Water by Wally Lamb

The environmental subplot in \*We Are Water\* is not merely a backdrop but a crucial element that drives both plot and character development. Lamb's portrayal of the water contamination crisis in Three Rivers highlights the real-world implications of environmental neglect and corporate irresponsibility. This layer adds urgency and relevance to the narrative, positioning the novel within contemporary discussions about climate change and public health.

By intertwining the environmental disaster with the personal struggles of the characters, Lamb underscores the inextricable link between ecological well-being and human survival. This approach invites readers to reflect on how the health of their communities is tied to the sustainability of natural resources.

### Wally Lamb's Narrative Style and Literary Techniques

Lamb's prose in \*We Are Water\* is characterized by its clarity, emotional honesty, and vivid descriptions. His use of detailed character backstories and psychological insight reveals an empathetic understanding of human complexity. The alternating viewpoints are skillfully managed, preventing confusion while enriching the narrative texture.

The novel's symbolism—most notably the recurring water imagery—serves as a unifying thread that connects disparate storylines and themes. Lamb also employs flashbacks and internal monologues to deepen the reader's connection with the characters, enhancing the novel's introspective quality.

### Who Should Read We Are Water by Wally Lamb?

\*We Are Water by Wally Lamb\* is well-suited for readers who appreciate literary fiction with a strong emotional core and multilayered storytelling. Fans of character-driven narratives that tackle difficult topics such as trauma, mental illness, and environmental crises will find this novel particularly resonant.

Additionally, the book appeals to those interested in contemporary social issues, as it effectively blends personal narratives with broader commentary on environmental activism and community resilience. However, readers seeking lighter or fast-paced entertainment may find the novel's density and emotional weight demanding.

### Final Reflections on We Are Water by Wally Lamb

Ultimately, \*We Are Water by Wally Lamb\* stands as a significant work that encapsulates the author's strengths: empathetic storytelling, richly developed characters, and a willingness to confront challenging subjects head-on. The novel's blend of personal and environmental themes offers a timely and thought-provoking exploration of how individuals and communities navigate trauma and change.

In a literary landscape increasingly attentive to issues of mental health and ecological justice, Lamb's novel contributes a poignant narrative that is both deeply human and socially conscious. Readers who engage with \*We Are Water\* will likely come away with a greater appreciation for the resilience of the human spirit and the enduring power of connection—both to one another and to the natural world.

### **We Are Water By Wally Lamb**

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we are water by wally lamb: We Are Water Wally Lamb, 2013-10-22 "A mesmerizing novel about a family in crisis."— Miami Herald A disquieting and ultimately uplifting novel about a marriage, a family, and human resilience in the face of tragedy, from Wally Lamb, the New York Times bestselling author of The Hour I First Believed and I Know This Much Is True. After 27 years of marriage and three children, Anna Oh-wife, mother, outsider artist-has fallen in love with Viveca, the wealthy Manhattan art dealer who orchestrated her success. They plan to wed in the Oh family's hometown of Three Rivers in Connecticut. But the wedding provokes some very mixed reactions and opens a Pandora's Box of toxic secrets—dark and painful truths that have festered below the surface of the Ohs' lives. We Are Water is a layered portrait of marriage, family, and the inexorable need for understanding and connection, told in the alternating voices of the Ohs—nonconformist, Anna; her ex-husband, Orion, a psychologist; Ariane, the do-gooder daughter, and her twin, Andrew, the rebellious only son; and free-spirited Marissa, the youngest. It is also a portrait of modern America, exploring issues of class, changing social mores, the legacy of racial violence, and the nature of creativity and art. With humor and compassion, Wally Lamb brilliantly captures the essence of human experience and the ways in which we search for love and meaning in our lives.

we are water by wally lamb: The Wally Lamb Fiction Collection Wally Lamb, 2014-07-08 From New York Times bestselling author Wally Lamb comes a collection of some of his most beloved novels. This eBook bundle includes The Hour I First Believed, I Know This Much is True, We Are Water, and Wishin' and Hopin'.

we are water by wally lamb: The Writer's Guide to Beginnings Paula Munier, 2016-11-15 Give your story its best start! The best beginnings possess a magical quality that grabs readers from the first word and never lets them go. But beginnings aren't just the door into a fictional world. They are the gateway to the realm of publishing-one that could shut as quickly as it opens. In The Writer's Guide to Beginnings, author and literary agent Paula Munier shows you how to craft flawless beginnings that impress agents, engage editors, and captivate readers. You'll learn how to develop the big idea of your story and introduce it on page one, structure opening scenes that encompass their own story arc, kickstart your writing with effective brainstorming techniques, and introduce a compelling cast of characters that drive the plot. You'll also examine the best-selling novels from different genres to learn the secrets that experienced writers use to dive straight into a story. With thorough examinations of voice, point of view, setting, dialogue and conflict, The Writer's Guide to Beginnings is a must-have tool for luring your readers in with your opening pages--and convincing them to stick around for the ride. Writing a book? Hard. Writing the beginning of a book? Rocket science! Strap on your spacesuit, because thanks to Munier's nuanced, actionable breakdown of every possible aspect of a gripping opening, authors everywhere can now take their books to the stars. --K.M. Weiland

we are water by wally lamb: Glitter and Glue Kelly Corrigan, 2015-02-17 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A memoir from the author of The Middle Place about mothers and daughters—a bond that can be nourishing, exasperating, and occasionally divine. When Kelly Corrigan was in high school, her mother neatly summarized the family dynamic as "Your father's the glitter but I'm the glue." This meant nothing to Kelly, who left childhood sure that her mom—with her inviolable commandments and proud stoicism—would be nothing more than background chatter for the rest of

Kelly's life, which she was carefully orienting toward adventure. After college, armed with a backpack, her personal mission statement, and a wad of traveler's checks, she took off for Australia to see things and do things and Become Interesting. But it didn't turn out the way she pictured it. In a matter of months, her savings shot, she had a choice: get a job or go home. That's how Kelly met John Tanner, a newly widowed father of two looking for a live-in nanny. They chatted for an hour, discussed timing and pay, and a week later, Kelly moved in. And there, in that house in a suburb north of Sydney, 10,000 miles from the house where she was raised, her mother's voice was suddenly everywhere, nudging and advising, cautioning and directing, escorting her through a terrain as foreign as any she had ever trekked. Every day she spent with the Tanner kids was a day spent reconsidering her relationship with her mother, turning it over in her hands like a shell, straining to hear whatever messages might be trapped in its spiral. This is a book about the difference between travel and life experience, stepping out and stepping up, fathers and mothers. But mostly it's about who you admire and why, and how that changes over time. Praise for Glitter and Glue "I loved this book, I was moved by this book, and now I will share this book with my own mother—along with my renewed appreciation for certain debts of love that can never be repaid."—Elizabeth Gilbert, New York Times bestselling author of Eat, Pray, Love "Kelly Corrigan's thoughtful and beautifully rendered meditation invites readers to reflect on their own launchings and homecomings. I accepted the invitation and learned things about myself. You will, too. Isn't that why we read?"—Wally Lamb, New York Times bestselling author of We Are Water "Kelly Corrigan is no stranger to mining the depths of her heart. . . . Through her own experience of caring for children, she begins, for the first time, to appreciate the complex woman who raised her."—O: The Oprah Magazine

we are water by wally lamb: The Frugal Editor Carolyn Howard-Johnson, 2021 The Frugal Editor: Do-it-Yourself Editing Secrets From your query letter to final manuscript to the marketing of your new book Whether you are a new or experienced author, The Frugal Editor helps you present whistle-clean copy from a one-page cover letter to your entire manuscript that will convince those with the power to say yea or nay to your precious book. The third edition of The Frugal Editor, is the winningest book in Carolyn's multi award-winning HowToDoItFrugally Series of Books for writers with accolades from Reader Views Literary Award, Dan Poynter's Global Ebook Award, the coveted Irwin Award, and many others. This fully updated edition includes the new help you need from managing gender pronouns to maximizing the usefulness of front and back matter. Altogether, The Frugal Editor now provides 50% more information designed for the success of your title. Writers and editors have a true friend in Carolyn Howard-Johnson. Her word smarts, her publishing savvy, and her sincere commitment to authors and editors make The Frugal Editor a must-have resource. --June Casagrande, author of The Best Punctuation Book, Period and Grammar Snobs Are Great Big Meanies (Penguin) and syndicated grammar columnist Previous editions of The Frugal Editor were excellent. Nothing could be better... except this book which has an additional 50% new content. The publishing world changes quickly, and this text allows writers to keep up with the ever-changing world of editors, publicists, finicky agents, trends, cultural expectations, queries, and media kits... exploding grammar myths, and possible scams. Save yourself time and money by learning from the best, Howard-Johnson. -- Carolyn Wilhelm, BA, MA, MS and author of environmental content Carolyn Howard-Johnson is a godsend for writers everywhere. Her new book The Frugal Editor, is part reference guide, part do-it-yourself editing manual, part masterclass on the writing and publishing industry... and all with Carolyn's signature humor and encouraging energy! She is a master at simplifying overwhelming tasks into relevant, can-do information. This book is a must for every writer's bookshelf! --Dallas Woodburn, book coach and best-selling author of Thanks, Cariss, for Ruining my Life I am using The Frugal Editor to polish my next book. I've used it for the first edit, the beta edit, and...I'm ready to snuff out excess words. Your tip about adding spaces with the search and replace tool is a timely add to my editing skills. It was easy to weed out abbreviations like AR for Arkansas one of my clients used with the (space)AR(space) feature. -- Elizabeth Seckman, editor of Insecure Writers Group newsletter In the third edition of her The Frugal Editor, Carolyn

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we are water by wally lamb: An Italian Wife Ann Hood, 2014-09-02 From the best-selling author of The Obituary Writer, the stirring multigenerational story of an Italian-American family. An Italian Wife is the extraordinary story of Josephine Rimaldi—her joys, sorrows, and passions, spanning more than seven decades. The novel begins in turn-of-the-century Italy, when fourteen-year-old Josephine, sheltered and naïve, is forced into an arranged marriage to a man she doesn't know or love who is about to depart for America, where she later joins him. Bound by tradition, Josephine gives birth to seven children. The last, Valentina, is conceived in passion, born in secret, and given up for adoption. Josephine spends the rest of her life searching for her lost child, keeping her secret even as her other children go off to war, get married, and make their own mistakes. Her son suffers in World War One. One daughter struggles to assimilate in the new world of the 1950s American suburbs, while another, stranded in England, grieves for a lover lost in World War Two. Her granddaughters experiment with the sex, drugs, and rock-and-roll in the 1970s. Poignant, sensual, and deeply felt, An Italian Wife is a sweeping and evocative portrait of a family bound by love and heartbreak.

we are water by wally lamb: Choosing Hope Kaitlin Roig-DeBellis, Robin Gaby Fisher, 2016-10-04 "[S]tirring . . . a bold, inspiring and ultimately hopeful book." —Arianna Huffington, cofounder and editor-in-chief of The Huffington Post and author of the New York Times bestseller Thrive "A beautiful portrait of the power of hope and love in the healing of a person, a community, and a country." —Gabrielle Giffords, former congresswoman and New York Times bestselling author Kaitlin Roig-DeBellis is the first-grade teacher at Sandy Hook Elementary School who saved her entire class of fifteen six- and-seven-year-olds from the tragic events that took place on December 14, 2012, by piling them into a single-occupancy bathroom within her classroom, mere feet from the brutal and indiscriminate massacre taking place outside the door. Since then, despite the unimaginably painful experiences she endured, she has chosen to share her experience with others, in the hope that they, too, can find light in dark moments. Choosing Hope is a lot of things. A written witness to a tragedy that will never be forgotten. A gripping firsthand testament to the power of good over the power of destruction. An inspirational memoir by a brave young woman whose story is one of courage, heroism, faith, and resilience. And a celebration of all the people who make the choice to pass along their hope and positivity to young ones—parents, mentors, and especially teachers. There is no moving on, but there is always moving forward. And how we move forward is a choice. \*Books for a Better Life Award Finalist\*

we are water by wally lamb: Bestseller Robert McParland, 2018-12-15 Whether curled up on a sofa with a good mystery, lounging by the pool with a steamy romance, or brooding over a classic novel, Americans love to read. Despite the distractions of modern living, nothing quite satisfies many individuals more than a really good book. And regardless of how one accesses that book—through a tablet, a smart phone, or a good, old-fashioned hardcover—those choices have been tallied for decades. In Bestseller: A Century of America's Favorite Books, Robert McParland looks at the reading tastes of a nation—from the beginning of the twentieth century to the present day. Through extensive research, McParland provides context for the literature that appealed to the masses, from

low-brow potboilers like Forever Amber to Pulitzer-Prize winners such as To Kill a Mockingbird. Decade by decade, McParland discusses the books that resonated with the American public and shows how current events and popular culture shaped the reading habits of millions. Profiles of authors with frequent appearances—from Ernest Hemingway to Danielle Steel—are included, along with standout titles that readers return to year after year. A snapshot of America and its love of reading through the decades, this volume informs and entertains while also providing a handy reference of the country's most popular books. For those wanting to learn more about the history of American culture through its reading habits, Bestseller: A Century of America's Favorite Books is a must-read.

we are water by wally lamb: The River is Waiting Wally Lamb, 2025 From the New York Times bestselling author of Oprah Bookclub Picks I Know This Much Is True and She's Come Undone comes the heart wrenching story of a young father who, after an unbearable tragedy, reckons with the possibility of atonement for the unforgivable--

we are water by wally lamb: I Know This Much Is True Wally Lamb, 1998-06-03 With his stunning debut novel, She's Come Undone, Wally Lamb won the adulation of critics and readers with his mesmerizing tale of one woman's painful yet triumphant journey of self-discovery. Now, this brilliantly talented writer returns with I Know This Much Is True, a heartbreaking and poignant multigenerational saga of the reproductive bonds of destruction and the powerful force of forgiveness. A masterpiece that breathtakingly tells a story of alienation and connection, power and abuse, devastation and renewal--this novel is a contemporary retelling of an ancient Hindu myth. A proud king must confront his demons to achieve salvation. Change yourself, the myth instructs, and you will inhabit a renovated world. When you're the same brother of a schizophrenic identical twin, the tricky thing about saving yourself is the blood it leaves on your bands--the little inconvenience of the look-alike corpse at your feet. And if you're into both survival of the fittest and being your brother's keeper--if you've promised your dying mother--then say so long to sleep and hello to the middle of the night. Grab a book or a beer. Get used to Letterman's gap-toothed smile of the absurd, or the view of the bedroom ceiling, or the influence of random selection. Take it from a godless insomniac. Take it from the uncrazy twin--the guy who beat the biochemical rap. Dominick Birdsey's entire life has been compromised and constricted by anger and fear, by the paranoid schizophrenic twin brother he both deeply loves and resents, and by the past they shared with their adoptive father, Ray, a spit-and-polish ex-Navy man (the five-foot-six-inch sleeping giant who snoozed upstairs weekdays in the spare room and built submarines at night), and their long-suffering mother, Concettina, a timid woman with a harelip that made her shy and self-conscious: She holds a loose fist to her face to cover her defective mouth--her perpetual apology to the world for a birth defect over which she'd had no control. Born in the waning moments of 1949 and the opening minutes of 1950, the twins are physical mirror images who grow into separate yet connected entities: the seemingly strong and protective yet fearful Dominick, his mother's watchful monkey; and the seemingly weak and sweet yet noble Thomas, his mother's gentle bunny. From childhood, Dominick fights for both separation and wholeness--and ultimately self-protection--in a house of fear dominated by Ray, a bully who abuses his power over these stepsons whose biological father is a mystery. I was still afraid of his anger but saw how he punished weakness--pounced on it. Out of self-preservation I hid my fear, Dominick confesses. As for Thomas, he just never knew how to play defense. He just didn't get it. But Dominick's talent for survival comes at an enormous cost, including the breakup of his marriage to the warm, beautiful Dessa, whom he still loves. And it will be put to the ultimate test when Thomas, a Bible-spouting zealot, commits an unthinkable act that threatens the tenuous balance of both his and Dominick's lives. To save himself, Dominick must confront not only the pain of his past but the dark secrets he has locked deep within himself, and the sins of his ancestors--a guest that will lead him beyond the confines of his blue-collar New England town to the volcanic foothills of Sicily 's Mount Etna, where his ambitious and vengefully proud grandfather and a namesake Domenico Tempesta, the sostegno del famiglia, was born. Each of the stories Ma told us about Papa reinforced the message that he was the boss, that he ruled the roost,

that what he said went. Searching for answers, Dominick turns to the whispers of the dead, to the pages of his grandfather's handwritten memoir, The History of Domenico Onofrio Tempesta, a Great Man from Humble Beginnings. Rendered with touches of magic realism, Domenico's fablelike tale--in which monkeys enchant and religious statues weep--becomes the old man's confession--an unwitting legacy of contrition that reveals the truth's of Domenico's life, Dominick learns that power, wrongly used, defeats the oppressor as well as the oppressed, and now, picking through the humble shards of his deconstructed life, he will search for the courage and love to forgive, to expiate his and his ancestors' transgressions, and finally to rebuild himself beyond the haunted shadow of his twin. Set against the vivid panoply of twentieth-century America and filled with richly drawn, memorable characters, this deeply moving and thoroughly satisfying novel brings to light humanity's deepest needs and fears, our aloneness, our desire for love and acceptance, our struggle to survive at all costs. Joyous, mystical, and exquisitely written, I Know This Much Is True is an extraordinary reading experience that will leave no reader untouched.

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we are water by wally lamb: I'll Fly Away Wally Lamb, I'll Fly Away contributors, 2009-03-17 For several years, Wally Lamb, the author of two of the most beloved novels of our time, has run a writing workshop at the York Correctional Institution, Connecticut's only maximum-security prison for women. Writing, Lamb discovered, was a way for these women to face their fears and failures and begin to imagine better lives. Couldn't Keep It to Myself, a collection of their essays, was published in 2003 to great critical acclaim. With I'll Fly Away, Lamb offers readers a new volume of intimate pieces from the York workshop. Startling, heartbreaking, and inspiring, these stories are as varied as the individuals who wrote them, but each illuminates an important core truth: that a life can be altered through self-awareness and the power of the written word.

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at Columbine, cowering in a cabinet and expecting to be killed. Miraculously, she survives. But when Caelum and Maureen flee to an illusion of safety on the Quirk family's Connecticut farm, they discover that the effects of chaos are not easily put right. While Maureen fights to regain her sanity, Caelum discovers five generations' worth of diaries, letters, and newspaper clippings in his family's house. As unimaginable secrets emerge, Caelum grapples with the past and struggles to fashion a future from the ashes of tragedy. His quest for meaning is at once mythic and contemporary, personal and quintessentially American.

we are water by wally lamb: She's Come Undone Wally Lamb, 2012-12-11 Meet Dolores Price. She's thirteen, wise-mouthed but wounded. Beached like a whale in front of her bedroom TV, she spends the next few years nourishing herself with the chocolate, crisps and Pepsi her anxious mother supplies. When she finally rolls into young womanhood at 257 pounds, Dolores is no stronger and life is no kinder. But this time she's determined to rise to the occasion and give herself one more chance before really going belly up. In his extraordinary coming-of-age odyssey, Wally Lamb invites us to hitch an incredible ride on a journey of love, pain, and renewal with the most heartbreakingly comical heroine to come along in years. At once a fragile girl and a hard-edged cynic, so tough to love yet so inimitably loveable, Dolores is as poignantly real as our own imperfections.

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we are water by wally lamb: I'll Take You There Wally Lamb, 2016-11-22 In this radiant homage to the resiliency, strength, and power of women, Wally Lamb—author of numerous New York Times bestselling novels including She's Come Undone, I Know This Much is True, and We Are Water—weaves an evocative, deeply affecting tapestry of one Baby Boomer's life and the trio of unforgettable women who have changed it. I'll Take You There centers on Felix, a film scholar who runs a Monday night movie club in what was once a vaudeville theater. One evening, while setting up a film in the projectionist booth, he's confronted by the ghost of Lois Weber, a trailblazing motion picture director from Hollywood's silent film era. Lois invites Felix to revisit—and in some cases relive—scenes from his past as they are projected onto the cinema's big screen. In these magical movies, the medium of film becomes the lens for Felix to reflect on the women who profoundly impacted his life. There's his daughter Aliza, a Gen Y writer for New York Magazine who is trying to align her post-modern feminist beliefs with her lofty career ambitions; his sister, Frances, with whom he once shared a complicated bond of kindness and cruelty; and Verna, a fiery would-be contender for the 1951 Miss Rheingold competition, a beauty contest sponsored by a Brooklyn-based beer manufacturer that became a marketing phenomenon for two decades. At first unnerved by these ethereal apparitions, Felix comes to look forward to his encounters with Lois, who is later joined by the spirits of other celluloid muses. Against the backdrop of a kaleidoscopic convergence of politics and pop culture, family secrets, and Hollywood iconography, Felix gains an enlightened understanding of the pressures and trials of the women closest to him, and of the feminine ideals and feminist realities that all women, of every era, must face.

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also must contend with a foreign army that is now in country---looking to exploit America's natural resources. Their love for each other and America gives them the strength to meet these challenges and forge ahead.

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