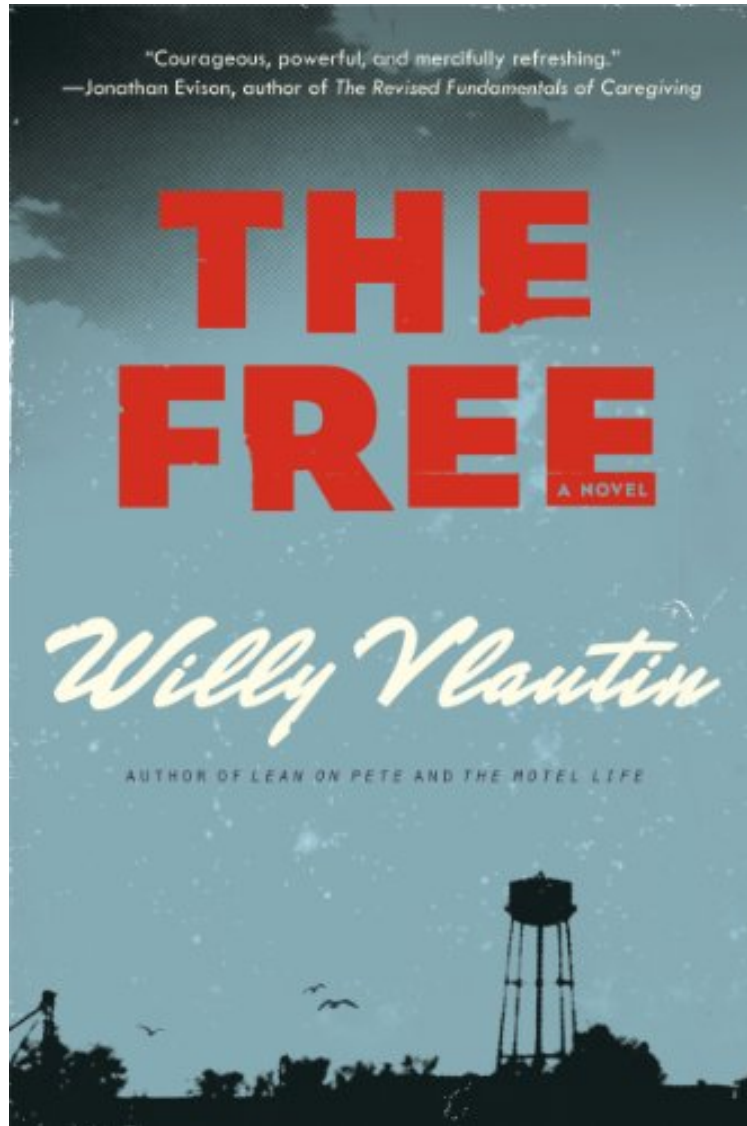


(Ebook free) The Free: A Novel

The Free: A Novel

Von Willy Vlautin

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Von Willy Vlautin : The Free: A Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Free: A Novel:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. In praise of good peopleVon Alfred J. KwakHow to review such a magnificent book? By referring to growing inequality in the US, now a land of limited opportunities? By saying it is anti-war and that the US government neglects its wrecked war survivors? Or as a companion book to Beverly Gologorskys Stop Here, also anti-war, describing the lives of 5 co-

workers, their boss and friends and relatives at a Long Island, NY diner? Some themes return in *The Free* where people also live from one pay check to another, face broken families, crippling medical bills despite insurance, drive old cars, work night shifts or two jobs to care for others... It also repeats her disgust about sending poorly-trained National Guard men to Iraq. Situated in a small town in the Northwest, its main characters are Leroy, Pauline and Freddy. Leroy does not speak a word in the novel, but his dreams and hallucinations in hospital-- inspired by his favourite reading matter, SF are an integral part, chronologically and in italics. They concern a lengthy, epic effort to save his girlfriend Jeanette from evil US armed forces and vigilantes right into Canada: after being wounded in Iraq, Leroy has spent seven years as a mute paraplegic in an institution. One night, he believed he could think normally again, but he panics (it cannot last!) and tries to kill himself. He was found by night caretaker Freddy and rushed to hospital, where Freddy visits him every night before starting his shift. Freddy's day shift is running a paint store. Readers must read his own dramas, dreams, and struggles for themselves. Pauline is one of the nurses checking up on Leroy repeatedly during her rounds. She has a great bedside manner with the sick and despairing, but is fiercely independent privately. Again, I refuse to be a spoiler. Rich novel with many other characters retaining true humanity and warmth in stressful times. Re-readable and perfect for reading groups. Highly recommended. 0 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. fr mich Vlautins bestes Von LHTolles Buch, nicht nur die, wie immer bei Vlautin ausgezeichnet und aufmerksam konstruierte Geschichte, sondern auch die Optik des Buchs selbst - "Rough Cut", sehr schick!

Kurzbeschreibung In his heartbreaking yet hopeful fourth novel, award-winning author Willy Vlautin demonstrates his extraordinary talent for illuminating the disquiet of modern American life, captured in the experiences of three memorable characters looking for meaning in distressing times. Severely wounded in the Iraq war, Leroy Kervin has lived in a group home for eight years. Frustrated by the simplest daily routines, he finds his existence has become unbearable. An act of desperation helps him disappear deep into his mind, into a world of romance and science fiction, danger and adventure where he is whole once again. Freddie McCall, the night man at Leroy's group home, works two jobs yet still can't make ends meet. He's lost his wife and kids, and the house is next. Medical bills have buried him in debt, a situation that propels him to consider a lucrative and dangerous proposition. Pauline Hawkins, a nurse, cares for the sick and wounded, including Leroy. She also looks after her mentally ill elderly father. Yet she remains emotionally removed, until she meets a young runaway who touches something deep and unexpected inside her. In crystalline prose, both beautiful and devastating, this "major realist talent" (Seattle Post-Intelligencer) considers the issues transforming ordinary people's lives: the cost of health care, the lack of economic opportunity, the devastating scars of war. Creating an extraordinary contemporary portrait that is also a testament to the resiliency of the human heart. **Pressestimmen** "Willy Vlautin is one of the bravest novelists writing.... An unsentimental Steinbeck, a heartbroken Haruf, Willy Vlautin tells us who really lives now in our America, our city in ruins." --Ursula K. Le Guin **Kurzbeschreibung** In his heartbreaking yet hopeful fourth novel, award-winning author Willy Vlautin demonstrates his extraordinary talent for illuminating the disquiet of modern American life, captured in the experiences of three memorable characters looking for meaning in distressing times. Severely wounded in the Iraq war, Leroy Kervin has lived in a group home for eight years. Frustrated by the simplest daily routines, he finds his existence has become unbearable. An act of desperation helps him disappear deep into his mind, into a world of romance and science fiction, danger and adventure where he is whole once again. Freddie McCall, the night man at Leroy's group home, works two jobs yet still can't make ends meet. He's lost his wife and kids, and the house is next. Medical bills have buried him in debt, a situation that propels him to consider a lucrative and dangerous proposition. Pauline Hawkins, a nurse, cares for the sick and wounded, including Leroy. She also looks after her mentally ill elderly father. Yet she remains emotionally removed, until she meets a young runaway who touches something deep and unexpected inside her. In crystalline prose, both beautiful and devastating, this "major realist talent" (Seattle Post-Intelligencer) considers the issues transforming ordinary people's lives: the cost of health care, the lack of economic opportunity, the devastating scars of war. Creating an extraordinary contemporary portrait that is also a testament to the resiliency of the human heart.