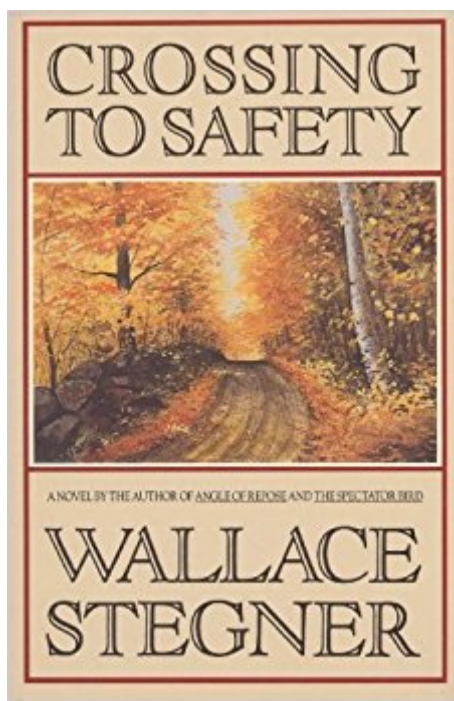


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Crossing To Safety: A Novel



Synopsis

Crossing to Safety: A Novel

Book Information

Paperback

Publisher: Penguin Books; First Edition, Later Printing edition (1987)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 086914054X

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ASIN: B000P8NYSC

Product Dimensions: 7.7 x 4.9 x 0.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (18 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This is my first Stegner book and I liked it well enough that I will probably try another one. The story of two young couples who become life-long best friends is compassionate, warm, funny, moving, and heart-breaking. In other words, all that life is, is in this story. I am not without complaint, however. The story, as moving and as well written as it is, is unrealistic to me. The couples are from drastically different socio-economic backgrounds. One couple is dead broke with no prospects. The other couple is rich, well-heeled, and travels in the best of the social circles. It may help to be a senior citizen before reading this book - the better to understand the nuances - but I can't believe the two couples in this story could themselves reach their senior years and still be friends. They are too different in backgrounds, temperament, and expectations. Stegner addresses this in the story by introducing friction points and he weaves one of the friction points - the stubborn dominating nature of one of them - into the story as a recurring theme. Maybe it's me, maybe I couldn't remain friends with someone so very different from myself. A second complaint is that sections of the book were difficult for me to follow. The story is told in flash-back, first-person narrative by one of the four main characters. But in a couple of sections of the book, I lose what year the story is in and I lose who is telling the story. One long section involves several people having a conversation that was either real

or took place in the narrator's head - I couldn't tell which - and I never knew who was talking. I ended up skimming through that section. Last is the relationship between the husband and wife of one of the couples.

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