

# "All the Water We've Seen Is Running": An Exploration of Time, Loss, and the Meaning of Home in the American West

In his critically acclaimed novel *All the Water We've Seen Is Running*, Owen Egerton paints a vivid and deeply affecting portrait of the American West, a land of both beauty and brutality, where the past and present collide in a haunting and unforgettable way.

The novel follows three generations of the Stillwell family, who have lived and worked on the same ranch in Wyoming for over a century. As the family grapples with the challenges of modern life, they must also confront the legacy of their past and the inevitable passage of time.



## All the Water I've Seen Is Running: A Novel by Elias Rodriques

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1951 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 261 pages



One of the central themes of the novel is the idea of home. For the Stillwells, the ranch is more than just a piece of land; it is a place where they have put down roots and built a life. However, as the family faces

financial and environmental challenges, they are forced to question what it means to be at home in a place that is constantly changing.

Another important theme in the novel is the passage of time. Egerton skillfully weaves together multiple timelines, showing how the past and present are inextricably linked. The novel opens with a Prologue set in the 1880s, and then jumps to the present day, where we follow the lives of Hank, the patriarch of the family, and his granddaughter, Jessa.

Through the alternating timelines, Egerton shows how the Stillwells have been shaped by the events of their past. The novel is filled with vivid descriptions of the American West, and Egerton's prose is both lyrical and evocative. He captures the beauty of the landscape, but he also does not shy away from depicting its harshness and unforgiving nature.

*All the Water We've Seen Is Running* is a powerful and moving novel that explores what it means to be at home in a place that is constantly changing. It is also a novel about the enduring power of family and the importance of embracing the past while looking towards the future.

If you are a fan of literary fiction, or if you are interested in the history and culture of the American West, then I highly recommend Owen Egerton's *All the Water We've Seen Is Running*. It is a novel that will stay with you long after you finish reading it.

### **The Importance of Time, Memory, and Family in the American West**

In many ways, the American West is a land of both beginnings and endings. It is a place where people have come to reinvent themselves, to

start over, and to leave the past behind. However, it is also a place where the past is never truly forgotten.

In *All the Water We've Seen Is Running*, Owen Egerton explores the complex relationship between time, memory, and family in the American West. The novel is set in Wyoming, a state that is both beautiful and unforgiving. The landscape is vast and empty, but it is also full of history. The Stillwell family has lived on their ranch for over a century, and their story is one of both triumph and tragedy.

The novel begins with a Prologue set in the 1880s. We meet a young woman named Mary Stillwell, who is traveling to Wyoming to join her husband. Mary is full of hope for the future, but she is also haunted by the memories of her past. As the novel progresses, we learn more about Mary's life and the challenges she faced.

The novel then jumps to the present day, where we follow the lives of Hank, the patriarch of the Stillwell family, and his granddaughter, Jessa. Hank is a rancher who is struggling to keep his family's ranch afloat. Jessa is a young woman who is trying to find her place in the world. As the two of them navigate the challenges of modern life, they are also forced to confront the legacy of their past.

Throughout the novel, Egerton weaves together multiple timelines, showing how the past and present are inextricably linked. The novel is filled with vivid descriptions of the American West, and Egerton's prose is both lyrical and evocative. He captures the beauty of the landscape, but he also does not shy away from depicting its harshness and unforgiving nature.

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## Owen Egerton's Beautiful and Haunting Prose

Owen Egerton is a master of language, and his writing in *All the Water We've Seen Is Running* is both beautiful and haunting. He has a gift for capturing the essence of the American West, and his descriptions of the landscape are both vivid and evocative.

Here is a passage from the novel that describes the Stillwell ranch:

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***“The ranch was a vast and empty place, but it was also full of beauty. The mountains rose up in the distance, and the sky was a vast expanse of blue. The wind blew across the plains, carrying the scent of sagebrush and wildflowers. It was a place of both beauty and solitude, and it was easy to see why the Stillwells had chosen to make it their home.”***

Egerton's writing is also full of emotion. He captures the complex feelings of his characters, and he does not shy away from depicting the darker aspects of the human experience. Here is a passage from the novel that describes Hank's grief over the loss of his wife:

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***“Hank sat on the porch of his house and looked out over the ranch. The sun was setting, and the sky was ablaze with color. But Hank couldn't appreciate the beauty of the sunset. All he could think about was his wife, who was gone. He felt a wave of sadness wash over him, and he began to cry.”***

*All the Water We've Seen Is Running* is a powerful and moving novel that will stay with you long after you finish reading it. Owen Egerton's writing is both beautiful and haunting, and he has a gift for capturing the essence of the American West.

*All the Water We've Seen Is Running* is a must-read for anyone interested in literary fiction, the American West, or the human experience. It is a novel that explores the complex themes of time, loss, and the meaning of home. It is also a novel about the enduring power of family and the importance of embracing the past while looking towards the future.

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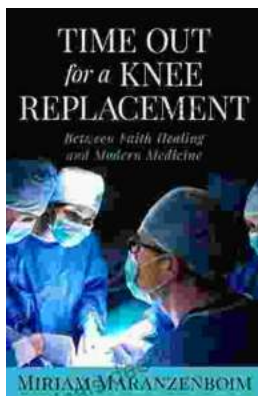
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