



# Am I Alone Here?: Notes on Living to Read and Reading to Live

Peter Orner

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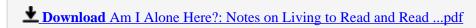
Peter Orner

#### Am I Alone Here?: Notes on Living to Read and Reading to Live Peter Orner

Peter Orner reads and writes wherever he finds himself—in a hospital cafeteria, a canoe in northern Minnesota, the Las Vegas Cafe in Albania, or on a bus in Haiti. Stories have always been his lifeblood, as they are the only way he has been able to make sense of a chaotic life. His father's death, his divorce, an unexpected pregnancy—all are seen, one way or another, through the lens of literature. The result is what Orner calls "a book of unlearned criticism that stumbles into memoir."

Among the writers Orner addresses in these essays are Isaac Babel and Zora Neale Hurston, both of whom told their truths and were silenced; Franz Kafka, who professed loneliness but actually had a far busier social life than Orner; Robert Walser, who spent the last twenty-three years of his life in a Swiss insane asylum, "working" at being crazy; and Juan Rulfo, who practiced silence. Also lauded are Virginia Woolf, Eudora Welty, Yasunari Kawabata, Saul Bellow, Mavis Gallant, John Edgar Wideman, Vaclav Havel, Gina Berriault, William Trevor, and the poet Herbert Morris, about whom almost nothing is known.

Hovering over *Am I Alone Here?* is Peter Orner's eccentric late father, who he kept at a distance and now mourns. The book is also an elegy for the end of a marriage, as well as a celebration of the possibility of renewal. At once personal and panoramic, *Am I Alone Here?* conveys the absolutely necessary place of stories in Orner's life, which will inspire readers to return to the essential stories of their own lives.



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#### **Robert Schrader:**

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they doing activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book can be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the guide untitled Am I Alone Here?: Notes on Living to Read and Reading to Live can be fine book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

#### **Anthony Moss:**

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read a book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent the entire day to reading a publication. The book Am I Alone Here?: Notes on Living to Read and Reading to Live it is rather good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy the e-book. You can more easily to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book features high quality.

#### **William Levitt:**

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