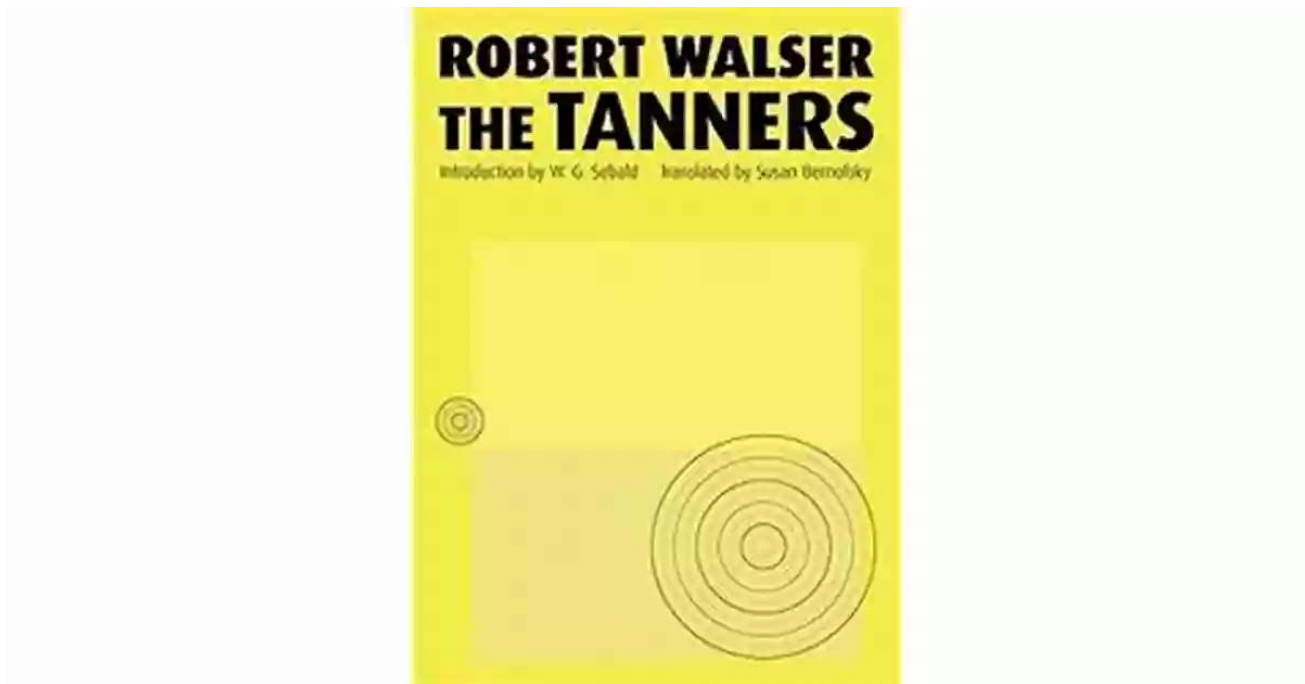


# The Tanners: A Thought-Provoking Masterpiece by Robert Walser



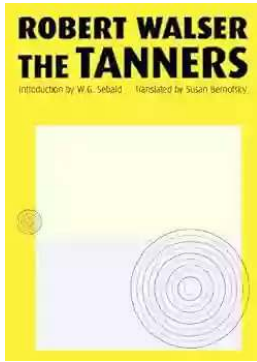
There are books that leave a lasting impact on readers, touching their hearts and minds, sparking profound thoughts and contemplation. "The Tanners" by Robert Walser is one such masterpiece. With its engaging narrative, intricate character development, and a unique blend of realism and absurdity, this novel stands out as a testament to Walser's literary genius.

## The World of "The Tanners"

The novel takes us on a journey into the lives of the Tanner family, a group of eccentrics living in Zurich during the early 20th century. We witness the day-to-day struggles, dreams, and aspirations of this unconventional family through the eyes of the narrator, Simon Tanner.

**The Tanners** by Robert Walser (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5



Language	: English
File size	: 3934 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 364 pages



Walser's writing captures the mundane aspects of life while infusing them with a touch of whimsy and mysteriousness. The story delves into various themes such as identity, societal expectations, and the pursuit of individuality. Through vivid descriptions and introspective monologues, Walser brings his characters to life, painting a captivating portrait of their relationships and innermost desires.

## **The Simplicity and Complexity of Walser's Prose**

One cannot discuss "The Tanners" without acknowledging Walser's unique prose style. His writing is understated yet thought-provoking, effortlessly blending simplicity and complexity. He masterfully tackles complex emotions and philosophical musings with a light touch, inviting readers to ponder deeply on the themes explored.

Walser's ability to create memorable characters is a testament to his genius. Each member of the Tanner family is portrayed with intricate details and subtle nuances. From the mysterious Klaus, who disappears unexpectedly, to the independent and headstrong Hedwig, the characters in "The Tanners" are unforgettable.

The portrayal of Simon Tanner, the narrator, is particularly striking. Through his introspective and introspective monologues, readers gain insight into his inner struggles, aspirations, and questioning of societal norms. Simon's journey of self-discovery mirrors our own, making "The Tanners" all the more relatable and poignant.

## **Exploring Themes and Philosophies**

"The Tanners" delves into deeper themes that are still relevant today. Walser masterfully explores the tension between societal expectations and individuality. He raises questions about the impact of conformity on the human spirit and the difficulty of embracing one's true self in a world that demands conformity.

Another prominent theme in the novel is the fragility and fluidity of identity. Walser challenges the idea of a fixed identity, presenting characters who constantly shift and evolve. This exploration of identity lends the novel an air of intrigue and mystery, as readers grapple with the characters' numerous transformations.

Additionally, Walser's wit and satirical observations provide moments of levity throughout the novel. His brilliantly crafted dialogues and comical interactions enhance the reading experience, bringing a balanced mix of introspection and humor.

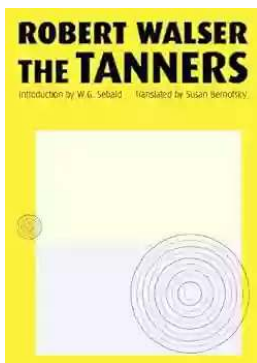
## **Legacy and Significance**

Despite being initially overlooked upon its publication in 1906, "The Tanners" has gained recognition and acclaim over time. It serves as a precursor to modernist literature, influencing subsequent generations of writers with its innovative narrative techniques and explorations of the human psyche.

Robert Walser's impact on literature cannot be overstated. His unique blend of introspection, realism, and absurdity has resonated with readers throughout the years. "The Tanners" showcases his ability to delve deep into the human condition, leaving readers with lingering thoughts and reflections.

With its engaging narrative, intricate character development, and thought-provoking themes, "The Tanners" remains a timeless masterpiece. Robert Walser's ability to capture the essence of everyday life while exploring deeper philosophical questions makes this novel a must-read for lovers of literature.

If you seek a captivating literary journey that will leave you pondering long after you've turned the last page, then "The Tanners" by Robert Walser is the perfect choice. Embrace the eccentricity, relish the simplicity, and embark on a thought-provoking adventure.



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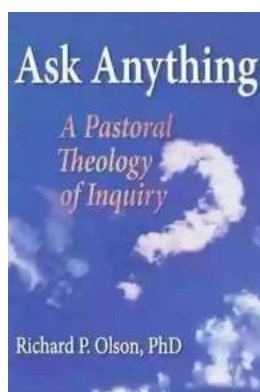
"The Tanners is a contender for Funniest Book of the Year."—The Village Voice

The Tanners, Robert Walser's amazing 1907 novel of twenty chapters, is now presented in English for the very first time, by the award-winning translator Susan Bernofsky. Three brothers and a sister comprise the Tanner family—Simon,

Kaspar, Klaus, and Hedwig: their wanderings, meetings, separations, quarrels, romances, employment and lack of employment over the course of a year or two are the threads from which Walser weaves his airy, strange and brightly gorgeous fabric.

Robert Walser—admired greatly by Kafka, Musil, and Walter Benjamin—is a radiantly original author. He has been acclaimed “unforgettable, heart-rending” (J.M. Coetzee), “a bewitched genius” (Newsweek), and “a major, truly wonderful, heart-breaking writer” (Susan Sontag). Considering Walser’s “perfect and serene oddity,” Michael Hofmann in *The London Review of Books* remarked on the “Buster Keaton-like indomitably sad cheerfulness [that is] most hilariously disturbing.” *The Los Angeles Times* called him “the dreamy confectionary snowflake of German language fiction. He also might be the single most underrated writer of the 20th century...The gait of his language is quieter than a kitten’s.”

“A clairvoyant of the small” W. G. Sebald calls Robert Walser, one of his favorite writers in the world, in his acutely beautiful, personal, and long , studded with his signature use of photographs.



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