



## The Diver's Clothes Lie Empty: A Novel

By Vendela Vida



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### The Diver's Clothes Lie Empty: A Novel By Vendela Vida

From the acclaimed author of *Let the Northern Lights Erase Your Name* and *The Lovers* comes a taut, spellbinding literary thriller that probes the essence and malleability of identity.

In Vendela Vida's taut and mesmerizing novel of ideas, a woman travels to Casablanca, Morocco, on mysterious business. While checking into her hotel, the woman is robbed of her wallet and passport—all of her money and identification. Though the police investigate, the woman senses an undercurrent of complicity between the hotel staff and the authorities—she knows she'll never recover her possessions. Stripped of her identity, she feels burdened by the crime yet strangely liberated by her sudden freedom to be anyone she chooses.

A chance encounter with a movie producer leads to a job posing as a stand-in for a well-known film star. The star reels her in deeper, though, and soon she's inhabiting the actress's skin off set, too—going deeper into the Casablancon night and further from herself. And so continues a strange and breathtaking journey full of unexpected turns, an adventure in which the woman finds herself moving further and further away from the person she once was.

Told with vibrant, lush detail and a wicked sense of humor, *The Diver's Clothes Lie Empty* is part literary mystery, part psychological thriller—an unforgettable novel that explores free will, power, and a woman's right to choose not her past, perhaps not her present, but certainly her future. This is Vendela Vida's most assured and ambitious novel yet.



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## The Diver's Clothes Lie Empty: A Novel By Vendela Vida Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"[Vendela Vida's] finest book...With its echoes of Hitchcock and Highsmith, this novel is full of darting pleasures." (**New York Times**)

"A brilliant inquiry into the eternal mysteries of being... Told cinematically in one long, bewitching take, Vida's astutely insightful, keenly suspenseful, surreptitiously metaphysical novel demands to be read in a breath-held trance and then plunged into again." (**Booklist (starred review)**)

"Vendela Vida's work is utterly compelling, surprising, economical, lush, beautifully written. Reading her inspires me, and reminds me of how powerful the novel can be - how addictive and vital - and of how rarely a writer as precise, artful, and passionate as her comes along." (**George Saunders**)

"Like Bowles' despairing, existential "The Sheltering Sky," Vida's novel penetrates the psyche of an American traveler when confronted with an alien culture and landscape.... [A]n emotionally precise and absorbing meditation on how grief can divest us of our most fundamental sense of self." (**San Francisco Chronicle**)

"Every woman writing literary thrillers gets compared to Patricia Highsmith once if she's lucky, but this is one of the few times it's felt to me like a hopeful comparison. After this, I'll read anything Vida writes." (**Chicago Tribune**)

"Vendela Vida has written a truly original novel, a work of art that shines with Buñuelian play and cruelty. The situation is discomfiting and addictive. You will be driven to read this novel compulsively, and then you will have the same strange sly smile that I do, now." (**Rachel Kushner, author of The Flamethrowers**)

"Part glamorous travelogue, part slow-burn mystery, this full-bodied tale of a runaway is at once formally inventive and heartbreakingly familiar. (It's also insanely funny.)" (**Lena Dunham**)

"Smart, thoroughly engrossing, funny, and even a bit disturbing. ... Part mystery/thriller and part absurdist/postmodern novel with a feminist slant, it is simultaneously funny and serious." (**New York Journal of Books**)

"You will tear through Vendela Vida's *The Diver's Clothes Lie Empty*, this wry, edgy, philosophical thriller, this love child of Albert Camus and Patricia Highsmith, this sly satire of Hollywood, this entertaining journey through the vast desert of identity and regret." (**Jess Walter, author of Beautiful Ruins**)

"Unequivocally a thriller, but more movingly, a meditation on identity." (**Vanity Fair**)

"The novel packs a wallop, taking the themes of Camus and Kierkegaard and transplanting them into a story with the pace and intrigue of a page-turner... A speedy and suspenseful fish-out-of-water tale with a slyly philosophical bent." (**Kirkus**)

"The Diver's Clothes Lie Empty is both a travel cautionary tale and a fantasy about the infinite possibility that travel offers." (**NPR's Fresh Air**)

“Second-person narration is tough to pull off - but when a writer is as skilled as Vendela Vida, that experimental form results in a compelling interactive experience. What follows is a wild journey through Morocco, and an interesting take on the surreal experience of literally losing your identity.” (**Bustle**)

“A chilling tale about the gradual loss of identity—a novel of doubles, invisibility and lies, poised somewhere between a fever-dream and a suspenseful thriller . . . Vendela Vida perfectly captures what it feels like to be unreal, especially to oneself, and grasping at roles in order to survive.” (**Sheila Heti, author of *How Should a Person Be?*** )

“A tense, often nerve-racking read, the anxiety heightened by the fact that it all comes to the reader as a direct address, in the second person. An artful, driving exploration of identity.” (**Portland Monthly**)

“A riveting read about the ups, downs, and self-discovery of travel.” (**Los Angeles Times**)

“This new volume is compelling in its underlying mystery and its call for readers to explore their individual pasts and the opportunities they can take in pursuit of a fulfilling future. It’s never too late, the novel suggests, to begin anew. Vida’s prose is spare and suspenseful, moving the reader quickly toward the denouement. It’s a novel ripe for the summer season—a book you can read on your porch or at the beach, leaving your old self, like the diver’s clothes, behind.” (**Seattle Times**)

“Tremendously fulfilling.” (**Maclean's**)

“Vida’s prose is spare and suspenseful, moving the reader quickly toward the denouement. It’s a novel ripe for the summer season—a book you can read on your porch or at the beach, leaving your old self, like the diver’s clothes, behind.” (**Electric Literature**)

“[*Diver’s Clothes*] begins in a realist mode but sheds this skin as it goes, becoming in its second half a gently postmodern, surrealist philosophical novel on the protean nature of personal identity. That it manages to do this gracefully and in the span of 212 pages is remarkable.” (**BookForum**)

“[The main character’s] transformation from victim into liberated shadow is as exhilarating and unsettling as Vida’s novel itself—a literary tour de force in the skin of a thriller.” (**O, the Oprah Magazine**)

From the Back Cover

From the acclaimed author of *Let the Northern Lights Erase Your Name* comes a taut, spellbinding literary thriller that probes the essence and malleability of identity

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“[Vida’s] finest book....With its echoes of Hitchcock and Highsmith, this novel is full of darting pleasures.”—*New York Times*

#### About the Author

Vendela Vida is the award-winning author of five books including *And Now You Can Go*, *Let the Northern Lights Erase Your Name*, and *The Lovers*. A founding editor of *The Believer* magazine, she lives in Northern California with her husband and two children.

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

##### Anthony Edwards:

Information is provisions for those to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone with everywhere. The information can be a understanding or any news even a concern. What people must be consider whenever those information which is from the former life are hard to be find than now is taking seriously which one is suitable to believe or which one the particular resource are convinced. If you get the unstable resource then you obtain it as your main information you will see huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen in you if you take *The Diver's Clothes Lie Empty: A Novel* as your daily resource information.

##### Jesus Novak:

People live in this new moment of lifestyle always try to and must have the extra time or they will get lot of stress from both everyday life and work. So , if we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely of course. People is human not just a robot. Then we ask again, what kind of activity do you have when the spare time coming to you of course your answer may unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading guides. It can be your alternative in spending your spare time, typically the book you have read will be *The Diver's Clothes Lie Empty: A Novel*.

##### Brandon Phelan:

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**James Murray:**

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