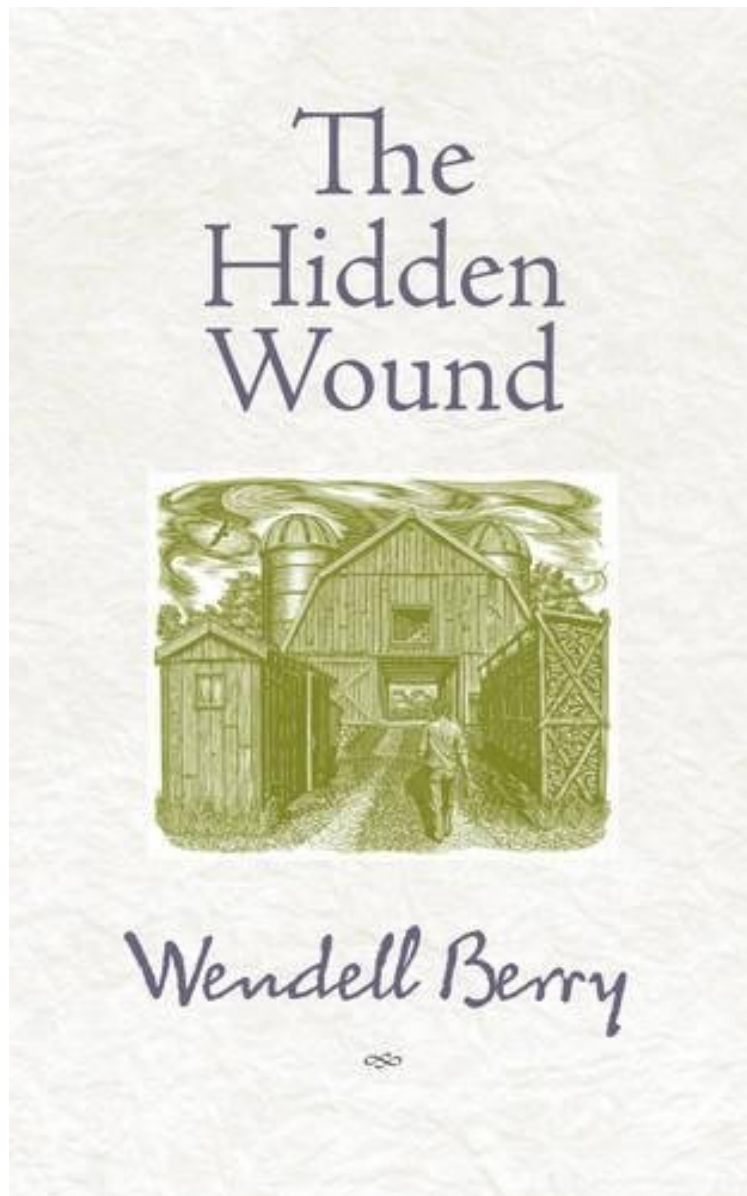


(Ebook pdf) The Hidden Wound

## The Hidden Wound

Wendell Berry

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**Wendell Berry : The Hidden Wound** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Hidden Wound:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Book All America Should Have An Opportunity To ReadBy Carter McBrideExcellent read! Perspective presented by Wendell Berry is one I have never read from a White American

Male in modern day America. It is both a privilege and pleasure to have come across this book. Every American should have the same privilege to be exposed to this writing. Do not get me wrong, I questioned his reasoning and as you read farther Wendell Berry also questions his own stance and understanding of "Why" I (Black American Male) would question him. Afterword is very important part of this writing....2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Wendell Berry is a great writer, unique in many waysBy Joan BaileyWendell Berry is a great writer, unique in many ways. He is a man of the land and writes about it in varying ways. This book is not so much about the land, but of the different people of the land, depending upon their skin color. It is a strong message to white men, an important message and should be read by all men. Doesn't hurt the women either.7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. About so much more besides "just" racismBy Augustus Carmichael"The Hidden Wound" is one of the best books on American racism I've ever read by a white man, but this book is so much more than that- it's a fantastic addition to anyone's collection of books by Wendell Berry, whether fiction or non-fiction, and makes his political philosophy (perhaps better described as his political "attitude") clearer than in almost any other book of his I've read.The first section of the book revolves around Mr. Berry's retelling of various legends and pieces of history from the civil war era, and how legends are often used to cover up the intense spiritual pain that society thrusts upon individuals. Usually, we hear about the horrors of slavery and white supremacy from its black victims, or white liberal activists who stood out in their opposition to these evils. However, Berry courageously places himself in the middle of the white culture that promoted the immoral exploitation of American black folk. In the process, he brings to light the incredible amounts of spiritual masochism, political double-think, and cultural paranoia that white supremacy wrought, all from an insider's point of view.From here, the book moves towards Berry's more direct experiences with the contradictions of white supremacy. We learn about Berry's childhood relationship with the black work-hands on his father's farm. The purpose of this section, as Berry himself tells us, is to show how the personal experience of love and mutual companionship is capable of cutting to the heart of societal evils. If "The Hidden Wound" had been written by an academician, this section would have taken the form of a more abstract, ideological critique of white supremacy. Instead of this well-traveled road, Berry opts for a much more personal touch. We are faced with the power of Berry's feelings of brotherly love for the black folks he knew growing up, and when juxtaposed with the morally insane cultural doctrines of white supremacy he describes in the beginning of the book, the repugnant nature of racism becomes undeniable.Berry, rightfully, tells us that we're making a mistake if we see the problem of "racism" as "just racism." Here, Berry connects the problem of racism to America's abuse of God's creation and our general cultural denigration of working-class and agrarian work. According to Berry, one of the main economic components of white supremacy was a disgust with what whites termed "n-word work," that is, the simple acts of work that are necessary for the maintenance of good communities and good topsoil. Ultimately, Berry's thesis can be put in these terms: The southern slave owner was addicted to the comfort that his slaves brought him, and was willing to trade his moral dignity for that comfort. The modern middle class suburbanite is addicted to the comfort that ecological degradation and class exploitation brings them, and is willing to trade their moral dignity for that comfort.

With the expected grace of Wendell Berry comes *The Hidden Wound*, an essay about racism and the damage it has done to the identity of our country. Through Berry's personal experience, he explains how remaining passive in the face of the struggle of racism further corrodes America's potential. In a quiet and observant manner, Berry opens up about how his attempt to discuss racism is rooted in the hope that someday the historical wound will begin to heal.

"A profound, passionate, crucial piece of writing . . . Few readers, and I think, no writers will be able to read it without a small pulse of triumph at the temples: the strange, almost communal sense of triumph one feels when someone has written truly well . . . The statement it makes is intricate and beautiful, sad but strong." —Larry McMurtry, *The Washington Post*"Berry has produced one of the most humane, honest, liberating works of our time. It is a beautiful book. More than that, it has become at one stroke an essential book. Every American who can read at all should read it." —Hayden Carruth, *The Village Voice*"One of the most impressive aspects of Berry's book is the authentic simplicity of his style, the directness with which that style can accommodate Tolstoy, Malcolm X, work songs, anecdotes, speculation, and polemic indignation . . . The strength of this book is its connecting America's two major problems: the exploiting of men and land; it deserves as wide an audience as possible." —Louisville Courier-Journal"One of the most touching and true personal testaments concerned with our country's racial dilemma." —Publishers Weekly"The brunt of the book is to wake us up, page after page, from stupidity. 'It is a kind of death,' Montaigne said, 'to avoid the pain of well doing, or trouble of well living.' Wendell Berry makes that observation rip the air like an alarm clock." —Guy Davenport, *Life*