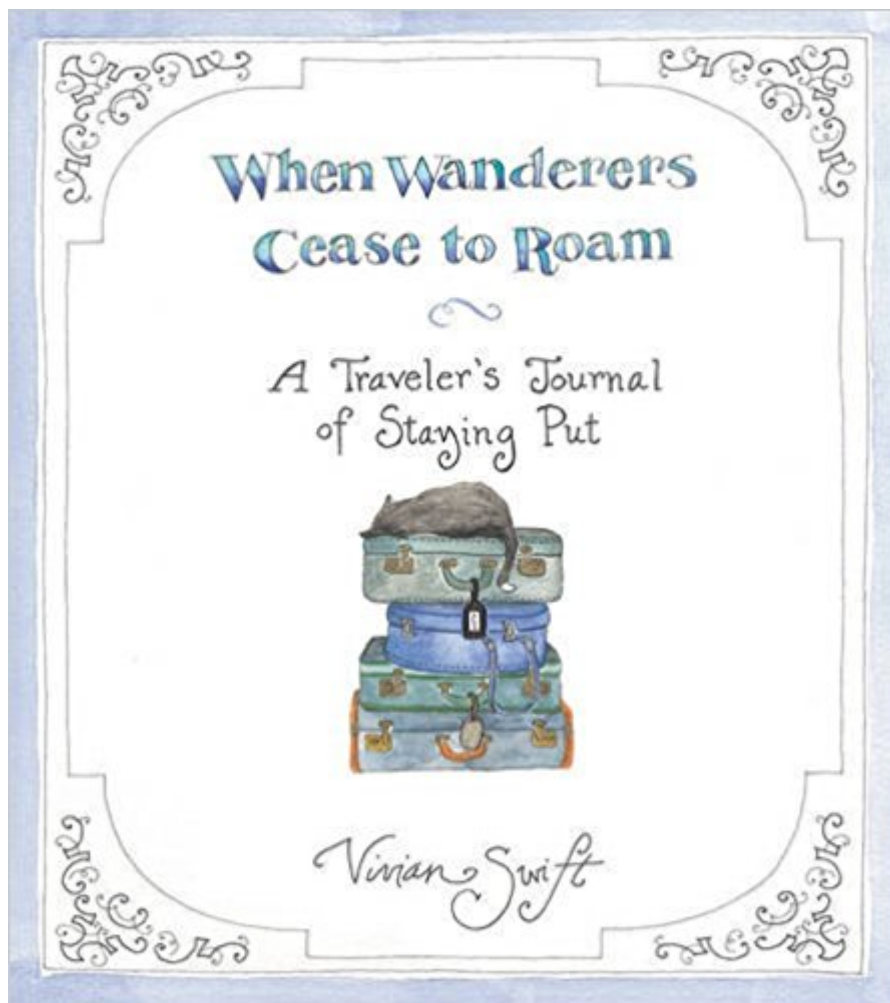




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When Wanderers Cease To Roam: A Traveler's Journal Of Staying Put



Synopsis

Following a lifetime of trekking across the globe, Vivian Swift, a freelance designer who racked up 23 temporary addresses in 20 years, finally dropped her well-worn futon mattress and rucksack in a small town on the edge of the Long Island Sound. She spent the next decade quietly taking stock of her life, her immediate surroundings, and, finally, what it means to call a place a home. The result is *When Wanderers Cease to Roam*. Filled with watercolors of beautiful local landscapes, seasonal activities, and small, overlooked pleasures of easy living, each chapter chronicles the perks of remaining at home, including recipes, hobbies, and prized possessions of the small town lifestyle. At once gorgeously rendered and wholly original, this delightful and masterfully observed year of staying put conjures everything from youthful yearnings and romantic travels to lumpy, homemade sweaters and the gradations of March mud.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Vivian Swift is a freelance writer and former assistant vice president of Christie's Inc. This is her first book.

"Take the worst day you had in January, repeat it 28 times, that's February." It's almost February, I'm feeling dull and lonely, so I take out Vivian Swift's journal, because it's one of the best companions in a time like this. It is like a heart-to-heart with friends: personal, relatable, interesting, and eye-opening. I never read the book all at once, but flip to the season or the month I'm inspired to crawl into. It's a perfect book to read when you need some inspirations to keep on going in life, or

when you want a companion to go over the good things in life.

What attracted me to order this book was the illustrations. When I received the book I wasn't sure if I liked the content. I started to page through the book just to see and then decided to keep it because of the simple watercolor, sketchy illustrations that originally attracted me to it - I really liked them. I then decided to read a couple of pages; I was then captivated as Vivian Swift took me on a year-long, month by month journey in her life. I loved her writing style as well as her art! I brought it on vacation with me and my sister-in-law picked it up and started thumbing through the book. She ended up reading half the book during our time together and then ordering one for herself! This book caught my attention both visually and narratively.

"When Wanderers Cease To Roam" is so delightful, I am telling all my friends and family about it! It's in the format of a personal journal, full of Ms. Swift's charming watercolor sketches and whimsical comments, trivia, and vignettes of her many years of traveling the globe - as well as the many positive aspects she has discovered concerning "Staying Put." This book can best be described as "Lovely!" The pages are thick, smooth, and semi-glossy - just perfect for displaying the many, many watercolor paintings found on nearly every page. The book is divided into twelve sections - one for every month of the year. After years of globe-trekking, Ms. Swift settled herself in a small village, nestled along Long Island Sound in New York State. I keep this book beside my favorite chair, where it has lived for over a year, and I look at it repeatedly as the weeks, months, and seasons arrive and then spin-away. The text was hand-written by the author, which adds to the personal tone of the book. It is also an inspiration to all who love journal-keeping ... especially those who enjoy including art within their narratives. I've given this book to several people as a gift, and it's been very well-received. You won't be sorry, buying this little Gem!

Illustrated journals, scrapbooks, memoirs. You've seen them all, right? Wrong. In "When Wanderers Cease to Roam" Vivian Swift brings a breath of fresh air to a genre that is in danger of becoming too stultifying. Her deft combination of crisp watercolor images and text (her own thoughtful reflections along with delightful quotes and obscure and amazing anecdotes) keeps you turning the pages. Of special note is how Swift skillfully composes each page leaving plenty of room for the reader's eye and imagination to add to the experience. This book is like a chocolate box offering an array of treasures to be considered and then sampled in any order you please. Best of all, unlike chocolates, you can go back to enjoy this book over and over again. A great book for travelers (both the active

and armchair kind), artists, writers and anyone who enjoys the company of a smart, opinionated thoughtful and laugh-out-loud funny traveler who has learned the joys of staying put. And if you like this then don't miss her new book "Le Road Trip: A Traveler's Journal of Love and France" (coming out April 2012).

I am a Vivian Swift fan! This book is great. It is inspiring for those of us who watercolor journal, but it is also a great story of Ms. Swift's younger days of traveling Europe (presumably when it was safer). She is brave and talented. She is also unselfish to share so much of her story with us. I have read it twice and still find myself picking up the book and simply enjoying it's loveliness... her style of writing, her sense of charm and her humor made this a fabulous read, not to mention her talent with a brush. This is a book I will buy as gifts for my artsy friends and also my FUN friends, as well (not that my artsy friends and fun friends are mutually exclusive! Ha!). Ms. Swift actually wrote this book in her own handwriting (no font here). A very talented lady.

Loved this book. I too have settled in Pelham, the small town described and illustrated so charmingly by Ms Swift, and I recognized with delight small corners of the town. Also learned details that I had not yet known.

I have truly enjoyed this very well-done book. Nice paintings by the author.

Review by my wife: I bought 5 of these books, one for me and one for four of my artist friends. We all love love love this book.

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