



A Place to Call Home

By Deborah Smith

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Twenty years ago, Claire Maloney was the willful, pampered, tomboyish daughter of the town's most respected family, but that didn't stop her from befriending Roan Sullivan, a fierce, motherless boy who lived in a rusted-out trailer amid junked cars. No one in Dunderry, Georgia--least of all Claire's family--could understand the bond between these two mavericks. But Roan and Claire belonged together...until the dark afternoon when violence and terror overtook them, and Roan disappeared from Claire's life. Now, two decades later, Claire is adrift, and the Maloneys are still hoping the past can be buried under the rich Southern soil. But Roan Sullivan is about to walk back into their lives....By turns tender and sexy and heartbreaking and exuberant, *A Place to Call Home* is an enthralling journey between two hearts--and a deliciously original novel from one of the most imaginative and appealing new voices in Southern fiction.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

YA?Innocent compassion links 5-year-old Claire Maloney to Roan Sullivan, a motherless 10-year-old lad whose life with his drunken, despicable father is a nightmare. A bond develops between the two that neither time nor space can break. Claire's family traces its roots back several generations to Ireland, and with them the mystical beliefs that creep into its contemporary culture and customs. Both families have deep roots in Dunderry, Georgia, where long-standing relationships weave in and out of daily life and are often more biological than at first acknowledged. When Roan is forced out of Dunderry, at age 15, after he kills his father while defending Claire, she is unable to forget him. For the next 20 years, she searches for Roan. Unknown to her, however, he has kept watch over her until he can prove himself worthy of her. A tragic accident brings Claire back to her home to recuperate and eventually Roan back to her. This is a story for any romantic who wants a bit of mystery, a lot of suspense, a tale of two star-crossed lovers, and a satisfying ending to a fast-paced novel. YAs will readily identify with Claire and Roan as they struggle to become the adults they want to be; readers will cheer them on to their eventual success.?Dottie Kraft, formerly at Fairfax County Public Schools, VA

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From Library Journal

Red-haired, Irish, the only girl and youngest child in a family with three sons, Claire Maloney is feisty, unafraid, and burning to right the injustices of the world, starting with those in the small Georgia town dominated by her extended family. At the age of five, Claire stands up for drunken troublemaker Roanie Sullivan, the neglected son of Big Roan and a despised outsider. It takes two tragedies to make Claire realize that the most generous impulses can be as destructive as selfish ones and 20 years of stubborn independence and loneliness before Roanie and Claire can accept home and family along with the ambivalent feelings they inspire. This novel is a rich evocation of family and place that portrays all too painfully the hurt and comfort, the frustrations and rewards brought by heritage and family. Recommended.?Cynthia Johnson, Cary Memorial Lib., Lexington, Mass.

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From Booklist

Claire Maloney is the protagonist in this story of a well-to-do Georgia family that dates back to early Irish roots. Claire's childhood friend was Roan Sullivan, white trash from a poverty-stricken neighborhood. When Claire was 10 and Roan 15, the boy killed his father when the elder Sullivan attacked Claire. Roan is sent away; 20 years later, he comes back into her life. Smith, author of five other novels, is an exceptional storyteller. She begins this entertaining novel with, "It started the year I performed as a tap-dancing leprechaun at the St. Patrick's Day carnival and Roanie Sullivan threatened to cut my cousin Carlton's throat with a rusty pocket-knife." If ever a novelist hooked a reader with the opening sentence, this is it. Expect demand by patrons who relish popular fiction that is at once exciting and heartwarming. *George Cohen*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Pat Clark:

In this 21st century, people become competitive in each and every way. By being competitive currently,

people have do something to make these people survives, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that at times many people have underestimated that for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a publication your ability to survive increase then having chance to stand than other is high. For yourself who want to start reading a new book, we give you this specific A Place to Call Home book as nice and daily reading guide. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

James Haney:

Information is provisions for those to get better life, information presently can get by anyone from everywhere. The information can be a know-how or any news even a huge concern. What people must be consider any time those information which is in the former life are challenging to be find than now's taking seriously which one would work to believe or which one typically the resource are convinced. If you obtain the unstable resource then you have it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen throughout you if you take A Place to Call Home as your daily resource information.

Arnulfo Walls:

Reading a reserve tends to be new life style within this era globalization. With studying you can get a lot of information that may give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world can share their idea. Guides can also inspire a lot of people. A great deal of author can inspire their reader with their story or their experience. Not only the storyplot that share in the guides. But also they write about advantage about something that you need case in point. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your kids, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors these days always try to improve their proficiency in writing, they also doing some study before they write to their book. One of them is this A Place to Call Home.

Olivia Dickert:

Are you kind of hectic person, only have 10 or perhaps 15 minute in your day to upgrading your mind talent or thinking skill also analytical thinking? Then you are receiving problem with the book when compared with can satisfy your short time to read it because pretty much everything time you only find reserve that need more time to be study. A Place to Call Home can be your answer as it can be read by a person who have those short time problems.

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