



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:

Stacey Eades:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with buddies is thing that

usually you could have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try point that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love A Place to Call Home, you are able to enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout men. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

John Guenther:

Do you have something that you want such as book? The e-book lovers usually prefer to opt for book like comic, small story and the biggest one is novel. Now, why not attempting A Place to Call Home that give your pleasure preference will be satisfied simply by reading this book. Reading habit all over the world can be said as the means for people to know world a great deal better then how they react when it comes to the world. It can't be mentioned constantly that reading behavior only for the geeky individual but for all of you who wants to become success person. So , for all of you who want to start reading as your good habit, you are able to pick A Place to Call Home become your own personal starter.

Erin Cummins:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray you, why because this A Place to Call Home reserve written by well-known writer whose to say well how to make book which might be understand by anyone who have read the book. Written in good manner for you, leaking every ideas and composing skill only for eliminate your own personal hunger then you still hesitation A Place to Call Home as good book not just by the cover but also by the content. This is one e-book that can break don't evaluate book by its include, so do you still needing an additional sixth sense to pick this particular!? Oh come on your reading sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to an additional sixth sense.

Patricia Beall:

Some individuals said that they feel uninterested when they reading a book. They are directly felt the item when they get a half portions of the book. You can choose the actual book A Place to Call Home to make your current reading is interesting. Your skill of reading talent is developing when you just like reading. Try to choose easy book to make you enjoy to read it and mingle the idea about book and examining especially. It is to be first opinion for you to like to open up a book and examine it. Beside that the guide A Place to Call Home can to be your new friend when you're truly feel alone and confuse in doing what must you're doing of the time.

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