



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:

Dirk Sullivan:

What do you in relation to book? It is not important to you? Or just adding material when you require

something to explain what your problem? How about your extra time? Or are you busy man? If you don't have spare time to do others business, it is give you a sense of feeling bored faster. And you have free time? What did you do? All people has many questions above. They must answer that question simply because just their can do that. It said that about publication. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is correct. Because start from on kindergarten until university need that A Place to Call Home to read.

Steven Kilgore:

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Kyle Gill:

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Norman Duque:

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