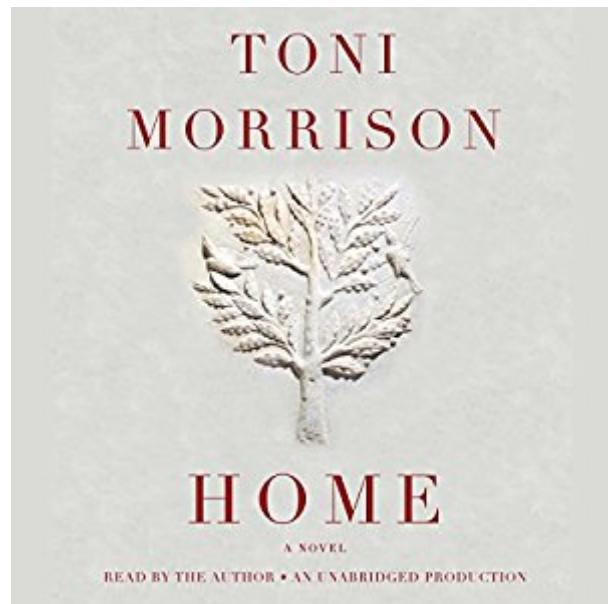


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Home: A Novel



Synopsis

America's most celebrated novelist, Nobel Prize-winner Toni Morrison extends her profound take on our history with this twentieth-century tale of redemption: a taut and tortured story about one man's desperate search for himself in a world disfigured by war. Frank Money is an angry, self-loathing veteran of the Korean War who, after traumatic experiences on the front lines, finds himself back in racist America with more than just physical scars. His home may seem alien to him, but he is shocked out of his crippling apathy by the need to rescue his medically abused younger sister and take her back to the small Georgia town they come from and that he's hated all his life. As Frank revisits his memories from childhood and the war that have left him questioning his sense of self, he discovers a profound courage he had thought he could never possess again. A deeply moving novel about an apparently defeated man finding his manhood - and his home.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read in a review that "Toni never puts language above story." I agree with that statement 100%, and the prioritizing of story is on full display in *Home*. This is a short book, but very fertile. How can she pack so much, in so thin a volume. The themes she touches on, each could be a full novel on its' own. Frank Money has returned from the Korean war, with a deep secret. He has covered this secret with mourning the lost of his two best friends, a "mourning..so thick it completely covered my shame." Frank and his sister Cee were close growing up, he four years older than her, acted as a big brother should. And his going off to war created a physical separation, but not a division of

affection. So, after the war and despite his struggling with post traumatic stress and using alcohol to self heal and exorcise the war demons, when he hears his sister is in danger, he does not hesitate to make his way toward her and.... To say more would give away too much. The use of Frank addressing not only the reader but the author as well was marvelous. This was done, a few times briefly to kind of comment on how the story was unfolding to illustrious effect. The language in this book is simply beautiful, and for some reason it doesn't feel unfinished, as most short novels do. And the ending is brought full circle back to the beginning, all this in under 150 pages. In fact, the reading guide at the end brings up so many good questions you will be astonished as to how one could create that many queries in a short book. Can't think of a better way to spend a couple of hours. This may well be the best novel you read all year. You will be greatly rewarded for taking that time!

I really look forward to all of Morrison's new releases. I am an avid fan and she is one of my favorite authors ever, with *Paradise* being one of my top three books of all time. That being said I don't understand the hype behind *Home* and why so many glowing reviews. *Home* is well written, which I would have guessed without even reading it knowing Morrison. My problem is that the story didn't seem to go anywhere or do anything. I understand that it is a story of hope and survival, but the short handed way Morrison handled it was more like she was outlining a book to her publisher than an actual book. We see Frank travelling with a short background/history of him. We see Ycidra as she grows up and moves to Atlanta. That's pretty much it. Two loosely connected stories brought together in the end, with Morrison trying to shock the reader into a jaw dropping moment. A huge fan of Morrison, not a fan of *Home* at all. Well written, but the story is more of an idea of story rather than the fully fleshed out books and characters she has written in the past. *Home* is still arguably better than a lot of other stuff out there, but compared to her own written work this one pales in comparison. 2 stars.

"*Home*" was a surprise for me because it is so fundamentally different from most of Morrison's previous works. However the simplicity and beauty of this shockingly brief novel is refreshing. It reads much like a short story in a sense, without the density and complexity of say "*Beloved*" or "*Jazz*". I finished this book in a few hours, however it left me with a feeling of satisfaction and warmth. Its story is one that may resonate with many Americans, particularly those with Southern roots or those who have experienced the aftermath of war veterans or heroes attempting to make an adjustment coming home from Korea or similarly any previous war. I love the intimacy and

grittiness of the characters as they are introduced to the reader. We find out in a few passages why Cee feels so vulnerable and is an easy target for a doctor who has few ethics and whose scientific experiments take precedence over the well-being of real human beings. Cee was scarred emotionally as a child, having been raised by an emotionally-scarred grandmother. Her hero is her brother Frank, from whom she has to learn how to reach her own inner strength so that she might eventually embrace her own life and worth. Again, I love this book as it touches my heart and inspires me to re-create images from my own family history, even though on a literary level, critics will most likely not give this work the stature of many of Toni Morrison's previous ones. Bravo to Toni for a real, heart-warming story.

Home, by acclaimed authoress Toni Morrison (Circle Award, and both the Nobel Prize and the Pulitzer for Literature, and the National Book Critics Award) is a "long" short story of 145 pages. Home's narrative uses the voice of both the main character Frank Money, and an omnipresence to tell the story of the Money family of rural Georgia. Frank Money, a homeless, drifting veteran of the Korean war losses his purpose in life, until he must return home to save his sister, Ycidra. Home is one of the ten novels written by Morrison, who is a prolific writer, who writes in several genres including children's books. Toni Morrison's books are filled with memorable characters and intricate plots. I enjoyed reading Home, just as I have enjoyed many of her books.

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