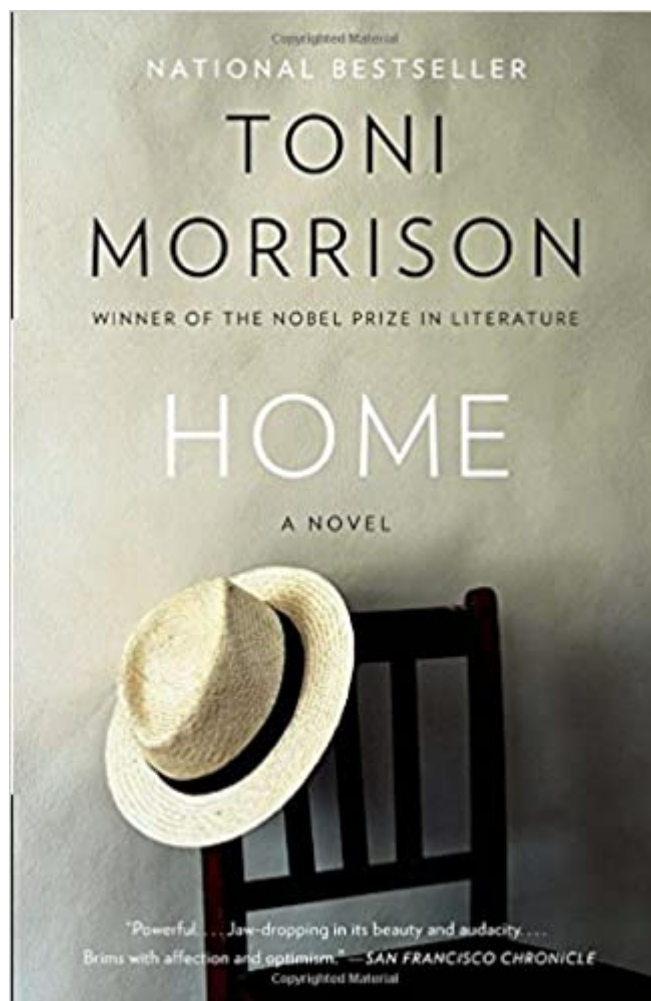


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Home (Vintage International)



Synopsis

A New York Times Notable Book
A Washington Post Notable Work of Fiction
A Best Book of the Year: NPR, AV Club, St. Louis Dispatch
When Frank Money joined the army to escape his too-small world, he left behind his cherished and fragile little sister, Cee. After the war, his shattered life has no purpose until he hears that Cee is in danger. Frank is a modern Odysseus returning to a 1950s America mined with lethal pitfalls for an unwary black man. As he journeys to his native Georgia in search of Cee, it becomes clear that their troubles began well before their wartime separation. Together, they return to their rural hometown of Lotus, where buried secrets are unearthed and where Frank learns at last what it means to be a man, what it takes to heal, and--above all--what it means to come home.

Book Information

Series: Vintage International

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Best Sellers Rank: #11,385 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #33 in Books > Literature & Fiction > African American > Historical #202 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > War #1320 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical

Customer Reviews

Best Books of the Month, May 2012: It takes only a page or two of *Home*, Toni Morrison's finely wrought 10th novel, before you find yourself relaxing into the hands of a master. Nobody owns a sentence like Ms. Morrison. Completely at ease in her craft, she spins slender, lyrical prose around a Korean War vet named Frank Money, who retreats into violent memories to escape his fractured present; his sister, Cee, abandoned by her husband and abused by a medical experiment; and the racial, economic, and emotional oppression fostered by their era and situation. In the understated act of saving Cee--he walks calmly into a house and removes her--Frank brings both of them full circle. Nursed by the local women who watched her grow up, Cee emerges robust and newly aware

and, as Frank puts it, "mended." If you pay attention, Home may quietly do the same for you.

--Mia Lipman --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

"Haunting . . . [Morrison] maps the day-to-day lives of her characters with lyrical precision. . . . Home encapsulates all the themes that have fueled her fiction, from the early novels *Sula* and *The Bluest Eye*, through her dazzling masterwork, *Beloved*." —Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times*"Gorgeous and intense, brutal yet heartwarming. . . . Accessible, tightly composed and visceral as anything Morrison has yet written. . . . [A] devastating, deeply humane--and ever-relevant--book." —Heller McAlpin, NPR"Lucid. . . . There is no novelist alive who has captured the beauty and democracy of the American vernacular so well." —*The Boston Globe*"Powerful. . . . Jaw-dropping in its beauty and audacity. . . . Brims with affection and optimism." —*San Francisco Chronicle*"This scarily quiet tale packs all the thundering themes Morrison has explored before. She's never been more concise, though, and that restraint demonstrates the full range of her power. . . . A daringly hopeful story about the possibility of healing — or at least surviving in a shadow of peace." —Ron Charles, *The Washington Post*"A fertile narrative imbued with and embellished by Morrison's visionary scope and poetic majesty." —*Elle*"A bona fide literary event . . . an emotional powerhouse. . . . Told in the stark, economical tone of a short story, with all the philosophical heft of a novel." —*Entertainment Weekly*"A short, swift, and luminescent book. . . . A remarkable thing: proof that Toni Morrison is at once America's most deliberate and flexible writer. She has almost entirely retooled her style to tell a story that demands speed, brevity, the treat of a looming curtain call. . . . There is no novelist alive who has captured the beauty and democracy of the American vernacular so well." —*The Boston Globe*"Profound . . . Morrison's portrayal of Frank is vivid and intimate, her portraits of the women in his life equally masterful. Its brevity, stark prose, and small cast of characters notwithstanding, this story of a man struggling to reclaim his roots and his manhood is enormously powerful." —*O, The Oprah Magazine*"Perhaps Morrison's most lyrical performance to date. . . . Home has a sparer, faster pace than earlier Morrison novels like *Beloved* or *Jazz*, as though a drumbeat is steadily intensifying in the background and the storyteller has to keep up." —*The New York Review of Books*"In a mere 145 pages, Morrison has created a richly textured, deeply felt novel. Home has a sense of the real with a touch of magic. After 10 novels and a Nobel prize, Toni Morrison certainly isn't resting on her laurels." —*Louisville Courier-Journal*"Her themes—identity, community, the resoluteness of both good and evil—are epic, and her language uniquely her own. . . . Taut and muscular, Home wastes not a

word. . . . In sentences balanced like proverbs, the Nobel Prize winner conjures up the community of country women Frank asks to help save Cee.â • â "The Plain Dealer Â â œIn this slim, scathing novel, Morrison brings us another quintessentially American character struggling through another shameful moment in our nationâ™s history. . . . Home is as much prose poem as long-form fictionâ™ a triumph for a beloved literary icon who proves that her talents remain in full flower. Four stars.â • â "PeopleÂ â œA short, urgent novel, polished to the essential themes that the Nobel Prize-winning author has explored for decades.â • â "The Columbus DispatchÂ â œBeautifully wrought . . . [Home] packs considerable power, because the Nobel Prize-winning author is still writing unflinchingly about the most painful human experiences. Thereâ™s nothing small about the story sheâ™s told with such grace in these pages.â • â "The Oregonian

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 (Pulitzer 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 omniscience to tell the story of the Money family of rural Georgia. Frank Money, a homeless, drifting veteran of the Korean war loses 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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