



Home Is the Place

Ann M. Martin

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Far and near. Lost and found. Four girls. Four generations.

Georgia cannot figure out what's going on in her family. Her mother, Francie, is extremely overprotective. Her grandmother, Dana, and her great-grandmother, Abby, don't speak to each other. And Georgia's great-great-grandmother also had some secrets that nobody else knows about.

Georgia knows this because she's found her great-great grandmother's diary hidden in a wall in the family's house in Maine. Reading the diary makes her think of her own struggles - and draws her even closer to the mysteries of her family as Abby's hundredth birthday approaches.

HOME IS THE PLACE is the heartfelt, remarkable conclusion to Ann M. Martin's Family Tree series, which has followed Abby, Dana, Francie, and now Georgia from girlhood to womanhood, showing readers the intertwining, extraordinary ways we grow up.

Home Is the Place Details

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Author : Ann M. Martin

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Lori says

Liked how she linked all four books together and brought in things to make sense of other books. Very enjoyable series that I enjoyed sharing with my daughter.

AwesomePerson says

AWESOME!

Emily says

OHHH MY GOODNESS. Oh my goodness gracious me, where to begin with this series?! I cannot believe I've finished all four books. Two whole years passed as I waited for each book to come out. I read the first book about Abby growing up in the 1930's in 2013. Then I read the second book, Abby's daughter, Dana growing up in the 1950's. And then Dana's daughter Francie in the 1970's in the third book. And finally, Francie's daughter, Georgia, in 2001.

The family tree books follow four generations of girls, and the secrets they keep, and the things that shape who they become. The books reminded me a lot of my own family. Or at least, the stories I've heard of my great-grandparents and grandparents and parents. And now me. I LOVED, loved, LOVED the way the series was written.

I got to watch each of the girls grow up, and become moms and wives and grandmas and great-grandmas. I read about their daughters, and the daughters' perspective, as a little girl. Even when one daughter was angry with her mother, I understood why their mother was the was she was because I knew her past. I knew her stories, her secrets. The things kept hidden from each other and the things that eventually came out.

It was so neat, too, because reading the first book back in 2013, I thought, "Wow, my great-grandmas – my Granny Louise, my Nana, Grandma Nancy, Grandma Billy – they lived through all of this!" and then the second book, my grandparents' generation. And the third book, my mom and dad's. And then my generation!

In the fourth and final book (as of right now... years from now, maybe my kids' generation, perhaps Ann M. Martin will write a fifth book...), Georgia is six years old when the book begins in 2001. (That's six years older than me, so just a little before my time), and at each chapter, I'd figure out how old I was during that time, and I'd think "Wow! I'm growing up so fast!" My favorite chapter was the second one. September 11th, 2001. That was a big day for me and my family... my birthday!

I HIGHLY, HIGHLY recommend this series. It was AMAZING. Stunning! A jewel of a series if I ever saw one!! It's the kind of series I'll pass onto my daughters and granddaughters. The kind of books I hope my kids will read and say "Mom, you really lived without 'insert whatever crazy new technology we'll have by then'?" or "You were born on 9/11?" and "Did the President know that would happen?"

Now that I've read the last book and everything is pieced together and I know everything, I'll have to read the series straight through to look for other things I missed the first go-round! These books also make me want to learn more about my own ancestors and family history... I really hope you read these books! Now that I've read the last book and everything is pieced together and I know everything, I'll have to read the series straight through to look for other things I missed the first go-round! These books also make me want to learn more about my own ancestors and family history... I really hope you read these books! Now that I've read the last book and everything is pieced together and I know everything, I'll have to read the series straight through to look for other things I missed the first go-round! These books also make me want to learn more about my own ancestors and family history... I really hope you read these books!

Susan says

In this final installment of the Family Tree series, we meet Georgia and her brothers Richard and Henry. We encounter all four generations of women a few times along with their secrets. Georgia finds Nell's diaries. And Abby celebrates her 100th birthday in 2022. Will there be healing among the women of the family?

Rosie says

Out of this four-part series, this final book was my favorite (maybe because it was set during my time as a kid/teenager). This book focuses on Georgia, the daughter of Francie (from book 3), granddaughter of Dana (from book 2), and great-granddaughter of Abby (from book 1). Georgia's story is set during the 2000's/2010's.

Like the stories of other women from her generation, Georgia has her share of struggles and sad moments. What really got me interested in this book is how Georgia knows there's something going on between her mom, grandma, and great-grandma but she's not sure what it is. Whatever happened between them happened before she was born, but it's still affecting their relationship with each other. The biggest event was when Georgia found a diary from Nell, the mother of Abby, that definitely helps tie up some lose ends of the series. At the conclusion of the book, Georgia and her family are able to discuss the past and their relationships. I thought this was a good conclusion to a series that kind of got off to a slow start but somewhat improved over time.

Kassandra Hickson says

This story by Ann M. Martin starts with a little girl name Georgia. Each chapter is a different setting and a different year. You see Georgia grow, and you see the changes that happen to her and her family. When Georgia's family moves into the family beach house that has been in the family for generations, she uncovers a family secret hidden in the house. She loves her family, but over the years there had been miscommunications. It is time for the family to talk it out, and better understand each other.

I highly recommend this book. I could not stop reading it, and it has a great moral. I loved to see the time go by and the character change. The story is humorous but is also very deep. I liked the fact that family was a central idea.

Miss M says

Well written series that follows generations of women in the same family. Excellent read.

Jennifer says

This review is on the whole series, with emphasis on the last book. Book one starts on my birthday in 1930, after the prologue, when Abby is 100 in 2022. The ending is the worst of the four. Book two has the least likeable main character until the very end. The ending is perfect. Book three was the most depressing to me. But the ending is the second best. Book four was the best of the series except for the abrupt ending. It left me with more questions than answers. This book is told mostly by Georgia, but some chapters are told individually by Abby, Dana, and Francie. They are her great-grandmother, her grandmother, and her mother. They tell their main stories in books one, two, and three. This series begins and ends with Abby's perspective. It makes a full circle from Abby's story when she is 100 at the beginning of book one to when she is 100 at the end of book four. I would have appreciated the series ending more if it had been more detailed. Book four was the best because of the four different perspectives. I would have also appreciated more chapters from each of the women. It was nice to read each of their thoughts again in the last chapter before the prologue, but that wasn't enough for me.

Becky says

I love this quartet, Family Tree series, by Ann M. Martin. It must be read in order as it explores 4 generations of mothers and daughters in one family. While each novel is the daughter's story, the mother-daughter relationship is the primary theme. The first novel begins in 1930 and the fourth ends in 2013. The historical times make for an interesting backdrop, as do the settings, mostly in New York and always involving the family home in Maine on the coast (where the series begins and ends,) but the challenges of growing up and family struggles take precedence. Though not without family conflicts, the love running through all 4 generations is palpable. Martin brings all 4 generations of mothers and daughters together in this last novel and reveals secrets that they have kept from each other, but now divulge, and that will help them understand, heal, and feel secure in their tight bond of love for each other. A lovely series.

Madelyn says

4.5

Camryn says

I think it was so good. I like the book. Read it. Love it.

Barbara says

Perfect for a mother-daughter book club or one focusing on generational relationships, this four-book series comes to a satisfying close with Georgia's story. Life is good for the Nobel family until the events of September 11, 2001 change everything. Georgia's mother Francie feels all her feelings of anxiety come crashing back, and she insists on moving the family from its comfortable Princeton home to the family cottage in Lewisport, Maine. Readers will enjoy having glimpses of Georgia's life as she settles into her new home, takes guitar lessons, and resists her mother's overprotective ways. She also discovers a journal kept by her great-great grandmother, Nell. The author uses this book to tie up many loose ends, but what I particularly enjoyed was how there were chapters devoted, not just to Georgia, but to the three (four, really, counting Nell's diary) generations who came before her, all with their own secrets, hopes, dreams, and disappointments. While I enjoyed all books in the series, it might have provided insight into each generation had the author also included a chapter or two from those other perspectives. With this book, as with the others, I couldn't help thinking about the price paid by others when someone insists on having his or her way, in this case, Georgia's father who gave up his teaching job to move to Maine. Once again, the author reminds readers of the importance of small personal events, those triumphs and tragedies, as they play out against the backdrop of a larger, historical canvas. It would have been fascinating to read these stories from the perspectives of the men in the lives of these talented women, but I'm glad to have met Abby, Dana, Francie, and Georgia in this true story of recent American history, lived out on the East Coast.

Cara says

Martin focuses on Georgia, a child growing up in the 2000s, in this final installment of the series while tying in the perspectives of her relatives from previous volumes. Georgia's main character trait is to be annoyed with her mother's overprotectiveness, which plays into a plot point from Francie's narrative and highlights the theme of this book, that all of the women in the family have secrets that cause rifts, but in the end they are brought together by the diaries, which lead them to reveal their secrets and feelings. Still, Georgia often seems bratty, and some readers might find her unlikeable. The family discord between Georgia's parents and with her brother Richard running with the wrong crowd introduces elements that are relatable for contemporary readers, along with Georgia's father's difficulties in finding work. As in all the installments, Martin ties in historical events by portraying Georgia's experiences on September 11, 2001, a tragedy that motivates Francie to move her family to Maine. This novel brings closure to the series but isn't Martin's best work. Readers in grades 4-6 who have enjoyed the rest of the series or who like stories that span generations will want to try this Family Tree book.

Ashley says

I feel like *Home is the Place* kind of got what I was hoping for in the Family Tree series right - I really enjoyed the few chapters from the other women in the series' perspective, and I feel like I would have liked those in the other books. It might make the connection between the adult women and the young girls we read about more distinct. (I had mentioned in a previous review how Abby seemed like a different person between books one and two.) I also really liked how Georgia found Nell's - that's Georgia's great-great-grandmother, Abby's mom - diaries, because I felt like that brought the whole series full-circle, and included the thoughts

and feelings of a generation that hadn't even had a book. It's pretty amazing to read about five generations of women, even if one was through diary entries.

Again, though, I would have liked more interaction between the different generations of women, the girls who starred in the previous books. (view spoiler) I felt like this book did a better job at tying the series together, (view spoiler) having more interactions with the main characters of the other books.

All in all, I give the series three and a half stars, and would probably recommend it, even if it didn't live up to my expectations. I'm already looking forward to rereading them all in succession, instead of having to wait months between books!

Katie Fitzgerald says

Ann M. Martin's four-book Family Tree series concludes with *Home is the Place*. Georgia, the great-granddaughter of Abigail, brings the story into the 21st century as she tries to make sense of the choices made by the women who have gone before her. With the help of a secret diary she finds tucked in the wall of her bedroom, Georgia pieces together Abigail's mother's life and death and brings together four generations in the hopes of revealing the truth behind all their secrets and lies.

This series got off to a great start with the first book, *Better to Wish*. With only one generation and one character to focus on, Martin was able to spend much more time on description and style. With each successive book, though, as there were more characters and storylines to balance, it seemed as though nearly everything was sacrificed for the sake of plot. This final book, while interesting to readers of the previous three, is almost nothing more than a list of events. Georgia is the least developed of the four main characters, and her entire story focuses on learning the history of her family, a good portion of which the reader already knows from reading the earlier books. Unlike the other girls, who are given a storyline of their own, Georgia is used solely as a plot device for solving conflicts brought about by previous generations. Readers who are eager for a resolution to the whole series will be motivated to read the book, obviously, but those who don't care that much to begin with might struggle to make it through to the end.

Ann M. Martin has a wide range as an author. *Rain Reign*, also published in 2014, is a perfect testament to her ability to write thoughtful literary prose, while *Family Tree* shows the more commercial, "fluffy" side to her writing. *Rain Reign* shares many things in common with her Newbery Honor novel, *Corner of the Universe*, whereas the *Family Tree* books are more reminiscent of the *Baby-sitters Club*. *Home is the Place* will not disappoint readers of the series who want to see a happy ending, but it's not likely to become a favorite novel for most kids.
