



Homecoming

Nell Stark

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Love is thicker than blood.

When Yale student Sarah Storm comes out to her parents, they disown her and withdraw all support for her education. A few days later, Sarah's long-term girlfriend breaks up with her and Sarah loses everything that matters—family, future dreams, and love. Forced to leave Yale with only the contents of her dorm room and a boat of a car bequeathed to her by her grandmother, Sarah scrambles to get her life back on track at the University of Rhode Island. Burying her hurt and disappointment, Sarah throws herself into both her classes and social life. But no one she meets is quite as intriguing as Rory, her new—and apparently straight—roommate. When it becomes clear that her attraction to Rory is mutual, however, Sarah begins to fear that history will repeat itself and she'll end up alone.

Will Sarah be able to put aside the betrayals of those she loved and trust again? Or will the consequences of her own coming-out experience get in the way of a new chance at happiness?

Homecoming Details

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From Reader Review Homecoming for online ebook

Jill Sorenson says

Cute romance between college roommates. Pros: Adorable characters, modern dialogue, sweet and satisfying love story. Cons: underexplored family dynamics, several unnecessary setup/backstory chapters, and a little too much focus on gay rights politics. Overall, a nice read with two very likeable heroines.

Emma says

Good read, I love the characters.

Endlesscribbles says

The audiobook version is just as good as the book itself. It was nice to revisit this story.

Kat says

Sweet and Lovely story about young love, discovery and of course heartbreak. Definitely keeps your attention through every chapter.

Jae Coleman says

It's targeted at you'd adults-college ages MCs. It's rooted in real life family dynamics, and the 20 something angst of coming out to your self and our family. I liked the weave in of the marriage marriage efforts. It's a fun, uncomplicated read if you fall outside the demographic of the main characters, and if you fall inside it will be very relatable. Smart, funny dialogue.

Sprinkles says

Reading about college students is a fair break from drama involving cheating husbands and babies and whatnot. Relating to the characters' issues makes a big difference and I found myself rooting for Rory and Sarah. Sarah's kinda genderbendering and she's hot; no doubt Rory would gravitate towards her.

While the story's great, I wish we got more of Rory and Sarah's development. I see other reviewers mention the big focus on gay rights politics. Either it didn't make a difference to me or I might've glazed over it. Not sure.

Justice for Chelsea! I felt kinda bad for that thirsty girl. Her scenes with Sarah were hot, though Rory and Sarah's coupling had much more love attached to it. Not simply an obsession with attractiveness.

Jackie says

2.5 A worthy but very flatly written story of a college-aged woman dealing with the emotional and financial rejection of her parents, her work campaigning to defeat a state amendment banning gay marriage, and her attraction to her purportedly straight roommate. With so much telling of each characters' interior emotions, the book gives the reader no room to imaginatively engage, and thus empathize, with these characters.

Luce says

3.5 Stars rounded up to 4 Stars for the audiobook. Read by Hope Newhouse. Newhouse did a good job. No complaints.

Overall I enjoyed this book. In the first chapter or so (chapters in audiobooks don't often align with printed version) - we meet Sarah Storm who is having an emotional breakdown. Her parents discover that she is a lesbian, they disown her, and withdraw their financial support at YALE. Not long after this her long time YALE girlfriend breaks up with her. It is really heartbreaking to read and knowing that it is not uncommon.

With the support from an old friend and her girlfriend, Sarah enrolls at U of RI, where she meets her straight dorm roommate Rory, a Korean American film major. While at URI she joins the campaign for the vote for marriage equality in RI. Rory decides to film a documentary about the campaign.

The majority of the book deals with Sarah and Rory, who realize they are attracted and in love with the other. But because of circumstances (the least of which Rory had identified herself as straight) neither of them tells the other. Well, eventually they do, after all this is a romance book. I liked how both characters internally come to terms with their feelings, their emotional journey of ups and downs. The backdrop of the political struggle for gay rights at this time in RI is also a big part of the book. Sometimes, it felt a bit too much, but the author used it well as the thread that bound all the characters and the times.

Miriam Cortez says

Finished this at work. Haha comes to show i can read any where any time i have a little time. But yeah this one actually very inspiring. Its great book to read after the law that passed on Friday, cause in this one they fight for the right to love who they want in Rhode Island. I loved it very much and how after fighting not only what her family though of her but also fought her self for the right to love who she wanted in the end. its amazing how Song fell in love with Storm little by little while filming something so important not only to her but to everyone around her. Amazing book in all and makes want to fight for something i believe in.

Nic Shannon says

2.5

Lara (SapphicBookClub-host) says

Actual rating 3.5 stars.

The novel has a pretty interesting plot about a lesbian whose parents disown her once they find out she's gay/dating a girl so she transfers to a different university and spends the rest of the book working on a campaign to get people to vote at a referendum against gay marriage (and of course also falling for her roommate).

Honestly, I wasn't the biggest fan of the plot but that's just because it's literally what I went through a few years ago when we had the same referendum here (ie. my parents finding out, me working on a campaign, getting same results) except no roommates to fall in love with. So if it's something you'd enjoy reading, by all means go for it! Otherwise, I appreciated what was being written but the story wasn't exactly for me. Major plus was the fact that the main character Sarah is a butch lesbian and that her love interest is Korean, and you don't really see either in f/f books lately.

Littledetours says

This is one of my go-to comfort reads. Is it a literary masterpiece? No. But is it enjoyable and does it do a darn good job of filling me with a warm, fuzzy feeling? Absolutely! Objectively, I cannot say this is more than a fun read, but it does tug on my heartstrings and it does leave one heck of a smile on my face. And sometimes that's all I need.

Dash Stryker says

Since I was less than glowing in my review of *Running With the Wind*, I thought it particularly important to observe how much I enjoyed *Homecoming*. The fact that Corrie and Quinn are portrayed as a stable, happy couple who serve as a support system for Sarah means that my chief complaint about *RWtW* doesn't really apply here.

I mean, it'd have been great to explore Sarah's history immediately after the bathroom scene with Corrie - including its role in her awakening - but that's not really necessary to the plot.

This is a good slow-burn friends-to-lovers story, set against a charged political backdrop (instead of the tamer world of sailing), with a solid ongoing reflection between the larger political landscape and Sarah's personal journey. The main characters are darling; their growing attachment to each other is as sweet as it is hot, an oddly rare balance.

My only complaint is that the secondary characters are never more than roughly sketched - including Corrie & Quinn, which is notable because there's an entire novel about them. It's just that the novel's about who they were before they got together, and apparently they've completely stabilized each other so that now they're just a boring but functional support system. Not even the slightest bit of tension over the whole (view spoiler) thing. There are references to elements of who various characters are and what they look like - multiple people are the hottest person on campus either overall or of their respective gender, for example. But there are *so* few scenes with these people. We learn how supportive a friend Matt almost entirely without seeing him support either Sarah or Rory. We get introduced to Nancy, who seems really interesting and detailed, but then all she does is hire Sarah and make a speech.

Strongly developed secondary characters give the reader the opportunity to gain multiple perspectives on the protagonists. So I see that as a bit of a missed opportunity, but otherwise this was a solid example of Nell Stark's talent and skill. I definitely recommend!

Rey Morales says

Sweet homecoming!!!

Such an amazing story line. I totally fell for Rory, such a strong character. Gotta admit, I was really hesitant to purchase this book but seeing all those pretty amazing reviews. Hands down I don't regret purchasing it. I loved it. Finding good story lines has become a rarity for me. I'm really happy Rory and Sarah pulled it together and fought for their chance at love. Amazing author Nell stark!

Sarah Crawford says

Sarah Storm is a girl who is enrolled at Yale. She's a good student and has not been in any major trouble of any kind in the past.

But when her parents find out that she is a lesbian, everything hits the fan. Her parents refuse to pay for any more of her Yale education, so she has to leave the college. They also kick her out of the house, so she has to find some friends to stay with. They cut off her cell phone and even end up totally disowning her. Even when she's had time to start to rebuilt her life, they show the same vicious anti-lesbian feelings that they had when they originally kicked her out. To put the icing on the cake, her girlfriend ends up breaking up with her.

In other words, prejudice triumphs over family. Unfortunately, this is not that uncommon of an event at all, kicking out one's own children since they happen to be gay or lesbian.

All of this takes place basically in the first chapter. Sarah has to start rebuilding her life by getting a job, entering a smaller (and far less expensive) college (she wants to become a doctor), and she has a roommate that is into making films. Her name's Rory.

Rory is going to make a special film about a vote that is going to be held in the state on whether or not gays and lesbians should have the right to marry (again, an incredibly timely topic.)

What makes matters very complicated is that Sarah has fallen for Rory, but she believes Rory is absolutely

straight (but not narrow). What she doesn't know is that Rory is starting to fall for her, and most of the book deals with the two coming to terms with their own feelings for each other, but afraid to come on to the other.

Basically, it's a very romantic story that tries to show that love does not belong to one person of each sex exclusively; that two people of the same sex can develop a love just as deep of two people of different sexes. A very good book.
