

# There's no place like

Each and every one of us walks a different road that intersects and diverges with other roads over and over again throughout the course of our lives. But each and every one of these roads will either begin or end at home. Home, as these writers understand it, is never just a house or a place: Home is a person. Home is a feeling, a smell, a sound. Home is a place we simultaneously love, long for, and at times, loathe. The writers in this section take us from Los Angeles to Oklahoma to Vietnam and back to Syracuse, where pen is finally put to paper.

These stories redefine the concept of home. They dismiss the idea that home is a singular place, experience, or person. They understand it as something existing within multiple universes of identity as opposed to a vacuum.

We question the ideal picket fence and mowed green lawn. We question the two-parent household. We question death, love, and war. We look to ask a child how she feels. We ultimately ask ourselves if homogeneity can really exist in the most personal vein of life. These writers express themselves through their questions, their fears, and their hopes: Where do we go when we can't stay in our own mother's house, or when our home has been torn to pieces by Mother Nature? How do we know that home is more than skin color, more than just a roof over our heads? What lessons does it teach us?

Maya Angelou says, "The ache for

home lives in all of us. The safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned." This quote reflects the courage these writers have in addressing their own personal journeys. We as readers were struck by the ways in which these writers approached a concept that is so much a part of us as human beings. Sometimes they find the safe place that Angelou describes; other times they find themselves robbed of that safe place, forced to adapt and overcome.

But more so, these writers communicate that home is within us if we are ever away from "where we can go as we are and not be questioned." The "ache" that Angelou describes can be felt beyond the pages of these stories.

As these writers set out to create their own destinies, their notion of home will always reside deep within them. Home is something that these authors carry in their roots: Sometimes the soil around them is watered so they can sprout and grow, while at times, they are ripped from the ground and forced to plant themselves somewhere new.

Home has a lesson to teach us all. Whether that lesson has a positive or negative influence on our lives, it has a purpose. It teaches us that no matter how far we venture in life, we know where our starting point was, and from there, we can navigate toward the future.

—Caleigh Gran, Victoria Luyckx, Annemarie Menna, and Chamelia Moore

# home

