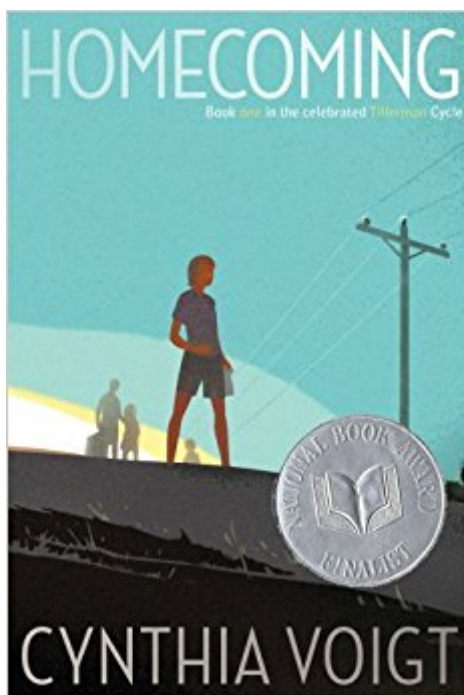


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# Homecoming (The Tillerman Cycle)



## Synopsis

It's still true. That's the first thing James Tillerman says to his older sister, Dicey, every morning. It's still true that their mother has abandoned the four Tillermans in a mall parking lot somewhere in the middle of Connecticut. It's still true that they have to find their own way to Great-aunt Cilla's house in Bridgeport. It's still true that they need to spend as little as possible on food and seek shelter anywhere that is out of view of the authorities. It's still true that the only way they can hope to all stay together is to just keep moving forward. Deep down, Dicey hopes they can find someone to trust, someone who will take them in and love them. But she's afraid it's just too much to hope for....

## Book Information

Series: The Tillerman Cycle (Book 1)

Paperback: 400 pages

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (March 6, 2012)

Language: English

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ISBN-13: 978-1442428782

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 458 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #26,504 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Homelessness & Poverty #41 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Siblings #54 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Being a Teen

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

"An enthralling journey to a gratifying end."

HOMECOMING is consistently one of our all-time best school adoption titles. In fact, of the 300 top selling mass market books Ballantine has published in the past year, HOMECOMING ranks as number 32. That's right up there with Michael Crichton, Anne Rice, and Amy Tan. Curious to see what all the excitement was about, I was compelled to read it. I was not disappointed. This is a

heartwarming story of child abandonment and how a determined 13-year-old (Dicey Tillerman) courageously leads her three younger siblings to the safety of a new home. We in the educational marketing department feel it's already a contemporary classic. Also available are free Teacher's Guides (394-21873). --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I first read this book when I was eleven or twelve years old. I stayed in the library at my middle school looking for books. I liked to experiment and try new authors or books. This one grabbed me because of the synopsis. I liked it and when I read it, I fell in love with Dicey and her siblings. This story was well written and showed the strength of four kids trying to find a way to their grandmother's after being abandoned by their mother in a mall parking lot.

In fifth grade I fell in love with this book. I read the tale cover-to-cover with the single-minded obsession that I unleashed in me whenever I find a compelling story. The next week, at the school library, I turned my book in and checked out the sequel. I liked my book so much I bought a paperback copy at the school book-fair. Not wanting my book to be lonely I bought the sequel too. In seventh grade, on the way home from school I left my book on the bus. The next day a girl I knew handed it back to me. Inside the front cover she had written my name in pencil, but she spelled my last name wrong. Her handwriting distinguishes the copy as mine to this very day. My book moved with me from mom's house to dad's house and back-and-forth again and again. It followed me to the dorms in college, lived in a handful of apartments, and joined me for the years at my grandparents' house. Today it sits in my condo on the bookshelf in our living room. Every year or two, no matter where I live or what has changed in my life, I scan my shelves looking for something to read. Inevitably my hand falls on the worn spine of my book, because this is the tale that speaks to me over all the others on my shelves. However, it wasn't until winter dumped mountains of snow upon us last month that I realized the depth of what my book has done. For the first time since I've started writing seriously, I went and pulled my book off its shelf. I opened the cover, passed over my handwritten incorrectly spelled name, and turned to Chapter 1. I worried that maybe this time it would be different. That my writer's brain would over analyze the author's use of adverbs and choice for point of view. That I would no longer get lost in the story because somehow, after twenty-three years, I had out grown the tale. The story began and for the first two pages my brain screamed "throwing all my doubts at me. By the third page the voice was talking, by the fourth whispering, and by the fifth it was silent. Because this was my book, and it carries the magic that makes me want to be a writer. It was just as I remembered, but at the

same time it was different too. I traveled with my heroine as she began a long, hard journey, and I thought Hey, that's like in the book I'm writing. I saw the places she traveled because of the vivid detail and dead-on imagery, and I thought Hey, that's like in the book I wrote. I saw two minor characters subtly named after cartoon characters that were linked to one another, and I thought Hey, that's like in my book. Page after page went by. I loved every one of them, but by the end I knew what was different. It's not that her story was like the book I've been writing, it's that my story was like the book she had written decades ago. It's that the author's voice has spoken to me from the age of ten, and somewhere along the way her book became a part of me. Whatever modicum of skill I possess was unconsciously modeled after her talent, and she is an aspect of the voice I hear when I write. And I realized if I ever write something that shapes a whole person's being, that's when I will have done it right. Cynthia Voigt changed my life when she wrote *Homecoming*. I just didn't know it until now. I wonder if she has a book too? p.s. This piece was written for an old blog of mine in March of 2013. At that time, I also forwarded this to Ms. Voigt. I was sitting on my boyfriend's couch when the reply email came in, and I just kept saying, "She wrote back! She wrote back! She wrote back!" It took me a good twenty minutes before I could explain to him who had written back. It's one of my favorite writer memories.

I've loved this book since I was a kid. I've enjoyed reading it to my kids a couple of times now. We used it as a book club book for my son when he was entering 5th grade, and later again, at my daughter's request, for her book club as she was entering 5th grade, as well. (Both are strong readers. The book is 400 pages and may be more than some want to tackle at that age.) This book is full of strong, quirky personalities and strong bonds between siblings. It's a great family read. It lends itself well to discussions of what it's like to not have money and what is most important for happiness. *Homecoming* is the first of many great books following an overlapping set of characters. *Dacey's Song* and *A Solitary Blue* (both award-winning) and *The Runner* are also favorites from my childhood and with my children.

I'm a huge fan of YA fiction, when it's not pandering to the lowest common denominator. Madeleine L'Engle's "A Wrinkle In Time" and "And Both Were Young" are hallmark books for me; I tend to judge other YA novels against them, for better or worse. I want to be engulfed by a book. I want it to take me over. I want to put it down with a sigh and immediately begin planning when I'll have time to pick it up again. I want the characters to live inside my head, and my heart. "Homecoming" does all of

that, as does the follow-up "Dicey's Song". A marvelous book.

I read "The Tillerman Series" when I was in 6th or 7th grade, and I absolutely loved them then. I remember really feeling connected to the characters. I was in awe of how Dicey (the oldest sibling) led her family across states in order to find a home for them. A few years ago, I decided that I wanted to try to buy all of my favorite books from when I was a child. "The Tillerman Series" were some of the first ones I put on my list. I finally bought "Homecoming" a few months ago, and I'm SO glad that I did! I think that I might have enjoyed it even more this time around. Cynthia Voigt does a wonderful job of letting you inside of their family. Being an adult, and knowing how hard it is to "make it" sometimes, I had a real sense of admiration for the kids in the book. I know that there really are kids like that in the world, and it made me thankful to have a great family. I would highly recommend this book (and the rest of the series) to anyone from ages 12 to adults.

Loved it and sent it to my 14-yr-old grand-daughter, plus the second in the series. I didn't realize it was a YA book when I ordered it, but it's a great story and well written, so don't be afraid to buy it for a YA and read it yourself before you send it to them!

A very heart warming book. This is a story that many kids can relate to now days. I am looking forward to having my students read this next year and the many discussions that can follow. The book is one that keeps you wanting to read and one in which you silently hope that the kids get a happy ending. It is also one that you realize is probably closer to what is happening in today's world. Although a little far fetched with the kids travels it is easy to see how it could possibly happen. Very enjoyable read.

I read this when I was in 7th grade and loved it then. In the mood for some childhood nostalgia, I chose to read Homecoming. It was better than I remember or maybe it's because I understand it more now. I feel like this is a book that we should be encouraging children and adults alike to read.

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