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# Coming Home Again (Singles Classic)



## **Synopsis**

I wasn't cooking for my mother but for the rest of us. When she first moved downstairs she was still eating, though scantily, more just to taste what we were having than from any genuine desire for food. The point was simply to sit together at the kitchen table and array ourselves like a family again. My mother would gently set herself down in her customary chair near the stove. I sat across from her, my father and sister to my left and right, and crammed in the center was all the food I had made—a spicy codfish stew, say, or a casserole of gingery beef, dishes that in my youth she had prepared for us a hundred times. In *Coming Home Again*, celebrated novelist Chang-rae Lee, author of *On Such a Full Sea* and *Native Speaker*, recalls the year he spent living at home, and learning to cook the Korean dishes of his childhood before his mother died of stomach cancer. An achingly personal story about love, grief and regret, *Coming Home Again* confronts the decisions we can't take back and the moments we can't let go with astounding grace and poignancy. *Coming Home Again* was originally published in *The New Yorker*, October 16, 1995. Cover design by Adil Dara.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Warm family story.

Coming Home Again, published in 1995, was one of Asian-American Chang-rae Lee's first published works. It's the nostalgic story of his life at home with his dying mother as he cooked her favorite foods that she had taught him to cook when he was a youngster. It's a tasty introduction to South Korean cuisine, but the story is really about the author's life and his relationship with his mother. It's a very enjoyable short read. Chang-Rae Lee went on to become a well known novelist and professor of creative writing.

I hope the author would consider expanding on this story. I enjoyed the description of how the food was prepared. How it smelled, tasted, and how it was arranged. It was a glimpse into another person's world with triumph and devastation. A great short story.

When your first child leaves home, for school, work, military...or searching the world....your child is excited, a little scared, ready to be independent. This story tells both sides-those of the child and of the parents. Great short story...!!!!

Having recently lost my spouse, I understand some of the random thoughts and memories one has. I also understand the desire to honor the deceased by completing their activities or fulfilling their wishes. This book was honest and expressive. It ended a bit strangely. Overall, I liked it.

Every young girl should read this short story. The value and appreciation of what a mother does for her child as she is growing up is often realized when a parent is gone. Perhaps this story could enlighten a young child to appreciate what she has while she has it...her mother!

Short and sweet! Recalled sky e memories of my childhood in a boarding school, time with my parents during the holidays, and the times when my grand parents came visiting me and my brother in the boarding school. Food bonds certainly!

A Korean American experience in words that are relatable and beautifully crafted. Parts of it feel like my own... In a way that I would never have thought to express.

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