

# Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards\*



## *Make Your Way Home*

Carrie R. Moore

2026 AWBA Fiction Winner

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### BOOK DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. Each of the eleven stories in *Make Your Way Home* is set in a different part of the American South—from the Georgia Coast to the Florida Marshes. One landscape is stitched to the next while remaining distinctly unique. Moore’s extensive research, outlined extensively in the credits section, led to lush and subtle descriptions that reveal the specificity of place, including their historical contexts. How does setting play a role in the larger themes presented in the collection—home, belonging, identity and community? Did this collection change how you perceive the American South?
2. Moore has a clear talent for writing compelling character-driven stories that balance both plot and interiority. Former AWBA juror, Deesha Philyaw, writes, “Her characters and their voices linger and arouse, long after their final moments on the page.” After reading all eleven stories, which characters still linger in your mind? How did you think Moore managed crafting whole characters in such a short amount of time? What do you notice about the character arcs in these stories?
3. Short stories are a unique art form and typically read drastically differently than a novel. However, Anisfield-Wolf juror and acclaimed novelist Peter Ho Davies writes, “This [Make Your Way Home] is the debut of a preternaturally mature artist, the stories so richly realized, their characters so deeply known that they feel novelistic in their depth and resonance.” What novelistic qualities do you notice about *Make Your Way Home*? If you could encourage Moore to turn any of the short stories into a novel, would you?

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4. Many of the characters in *Make Your Way Home* are at a threshold moment in their lives, where what they've inherited—from curses to conventions—cannot carry them fully into the future. In their own way, each of the characters in this book is attempting to chart their own path forward amidst pain and grief. The interpersonal relationships presented are full of tension and can be disquieting at times. As you were reading—how did *Make Your Way Home* challenge your ideas of community building, accountability, and working through tension?
5. Faith and love are major themes throughout *Make Your Way Home*. Whether we're reading the story of budding lovers as in 'When We Go, We Go Downstream' or a family moving to protect their children as in 'All Skin is Clothing,' Moore showcases the nuances of trying to build a full life with the ones you love. Kirkus Reviews writes that *Make Your Way Home* is "a regional relief map of the human heart." Would you consider *Make Your Way Home* a collection of love stories? Are there any lessons you learned while watching these characters navigate faith and love?

