



The Journey Home

Michael Baron

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Joseph, a man in his late thirties, awakens disoriented and uneasy in a place he doesn't recognize. Several people are near him when he opens his eyes, all strangers. All of them seem perfectly friendly, but none of them can explain to him how he got there. They offer him a delicious meal and pleasant conversation in a beautifully decorated room. This would be a very nice experience if not for one thing: Joseph doesn't know where he is and he has no way to contact his wife, who he is sure is worried sick over him. Thanking the people for their hospitality, he leaves to make his way back home. The only problem is that whatever happened to him has stripped him of most of his memories. He knows he needs to get back to his wife, but he doesn't know how to find her. He sets out on a journey to find his home with no sense of where he's going and only the precious, indelible vision of the woman he loves to guide him.

Antoinette is an elderly woman in an assisted living facility. She's spent the last six years there since her husband died, and most of those years have been happy. She enjoys the company of others in her situation and her son comes to visit often. But in recent months, she's had a tougher and tougher time leaving her room. Her friends seem different to her and the world seems increasingly confusing. She spends an escalating amount of time on a journey inside her head. There, her body and mind haven't betrayed her. There, she's a young newlywed with a husband who dotes on her and an entire life of dreams to live. There, she is truly home.

Warren, Antoinette's son, is a man in his early forties going through the toughest year of his life. His marriage ended, he lost his job, and in the past few months, his mother has gone from hale to increasingly hazy. Having trouble finding work, he spends more and more time by his mother's bedside. But her lack of lucidity both frustrates and frightens him. With far too much time on his hands, he decides to try to recreate his memories of home by attempting to cook his mother's greatest dishes using the rudimentary appliances available in her room. He finds the challenge surprisingly rewarding, especially because the only time he feels his mother is truly with him anymore is when she is eating the meals he prepares for her.

Joseph, Antoinette, and Warren are three people on different searches for home. How they find it, and how they connect with one another at this critical stage in each of their lives, is the foundation for a profound and deeply moving story.

The Journey Home Details

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Author : Michael Baron

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From Reader Review The Journey Home for online ebook

Estefânia Botelho says

Razões da escolha do livro: Oferta da Editora “Quinta Essência”.

Proveniência: A minha biblioteca.

A minha Opinião:

Três personagens – Joseph, Antoinette e Warren – procuram um novo sentido para a sua vida, procuram aquilo que mais amam.

Joseph acorda perdido, sem saber onde está, só sentindo que tem de encontrar a sua esposa, que tanto ama mas sobre a qual não tem recordações, apenas uma imagem pouco nítida ou a sua voz para o guiar.

Antoinette vive fechada no seu próprio mundo, alternando períodos de lucidez com recordações de uma vida passada, de um tempo em que era feliz ao lado do seu falecido marido.

Warren tenta aproximar-se da mãe, fazê-la sorrir, sentir-se melhor ao mesmo tempo que tenta sarar as suas próprias feridas.

Estas três personagens, aparentemente metidas no seu próprio casulo, têm muito mais em comum do que podemos imaginar ao iniciarmos a leitura do livro. Todos têm a esperança de reencontrar o que pensavam ter perdido e nunca deixam de procurar tendo no coração uma arma muito poderosa: o amor.

É um livro emocionante, que nos faz pensar e querer ler mais livros deste escritor...

E podemos tirar uma moral desta história: desde que queiramos muito alguma coisa e lutemos por ler ela de coração aberto, iremos com certeza encontra-la apesar dos obstáculos porque no final tudo vale a pena!

O melhor: Os sentimentos que estão expressos em cada página do livro, as lições de vida e a esperança que o livro nos transmite.

O pior: Sabermos que tudo tem um fim....E as histórias das personagens não são fáceis.

O Autor:

Michael Baron é o pseudónimo de um reconhecido autor de obras de não ficção. A Quinta Essência publicou também *Ficarei à tua Espera*, o seu primeiro romance.

A minha classificação: 6 – Muito Bom

Período de Leitura: De 17 a 19 de Abril de 2012.

Joel Gass says

free nook book..

Cheryl says

The Journey Home by Michael Baron

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At the request of The Story Plant, a PB copy was sent, at no cost to me, for my honest opinion.

Subject: (from back of book) Joseph, a man in his late thirties, awakens disoriented and uneasy in a place he doesn't recognize. He sets out on a journey to find his home with no sense of where he's going and only the precious, indelible vision of the woman he loves to guide him.

Antoinette is an elderly woman in an assisted living facility who has retreated inside her head. There, her body and mind haven't betrayed her. There, she's a young newlywed with a husband who dotes on her and an

entire life of dreams to live. There, she is truly home.

Warren, Antoinette's son, is a man in his early forties going through the toughest year of his life. With far too much time on his hands, he decides to try to recreate his memories of home by attempting to cook his mother's greatest dishes and eat them with her.

My Thoughts and Opinion: Michael Baron delivers again !! Another heart tugging, thought provoking, tender and emotional story written only the way Michael Baron can. Filled with mouth watering descriptions of meals that evoke memories of the past. He takes the reader on a journey, along with the characters, to find their way home. But where is truly the place called home and how do we get there? This story touched an emotional chord in my heart, on a personal level, due to the cross road I am also on. While reading how Warren tried to recreate his memories with the smell of meals being cooked, also brought to mind, meals and memories of my own past. Mr. Baron hit this one out of the park !! Like any good meal, The Journey Home, needs to be devoured in one seating.

Bravo !!

My Rating: 5

Tania Martins says

Sabem quando uma pessoa cria grandes expectativas para um livro e ele parece ser tudo de bom? Não foi o caso...

Achei o enredo pouco verosímil e completamente fora da realidade, às tantas acaba por ser o reencontro de um filho com a mãe enquanto ela aguarda uma morte iminente e padece de uma doença da qual na maior parte das vezes não se lembra deste e recordamos toda a história de amor dela com Don, tudo isso enquanto o filho cozinha na esperança que a mãe se recorde de alguma coisa...Joseph e todo o mistério de estar perdido acaba por ser a parte melhor deste livro!

E o final não melhorou muito a coisa, então (view spoiler), como tal foi uma experiência terrível mas melhores leituras virão!

Kari says

A poignant love story tying three separate characters together in an unimaginable way, The Journey Home will pull readers in from the beginning and captivate them throughout. With endearing and sensitive writing, beautifully crafted characters and stunning plot lines, Baron has created another romantic masterpiece. This book focuses on three characters, two of whom are related and one who is completely separate, and forms a connection with each of them to the reader.

Joseph is the first character introduced, a man who wakes up in a house full of strangers and missing most of his names. Apart from knowing his first name but no last name and having a strong feeling he is married, Joseph is at a complete loss for what to do and where to go. His pain over the distance from his wife is tangible, written in a stunning way to easily make the reader see from his eyes how it feels to know somewhere his wife loves him and misses him with no word on whether he's safe or not. His journey is surprising as he meets a 17 year old boy named Will who openly offers to drive him aimlessly across the country in an effort to find his home. The kinship between these two- adult man and teenager caught between boy and man- is moving and memorable.

Next introduced is Antoinette, a woman suffering the effects of Alzheimer's, compounded by her grievance over the loss of her husband a few years before. This is a woman who was devoted to her husband, entwined in him, and the definition of soul mate. Without him, Antoinette lives in a constant state of pain, missing him and wanting nothing more than to be with him. Her days are spent, by preference, locked away in her memories, reliving her entire relationship with her husband and offering heartfelt looks into various points in their decades together. They most certainly had the kind of idealized romance many can only dream about, from the raw passion to the intense devotion and Baron has painted that picture enchantingly.

The final player in this work is Warren, Antoinette's son who is struggling to understand her mental decline. With little other ideas to try to pull her attention, coupled with the goings-on in his personal life, Warren begins creating all the heartfelt, homemade dishes he grew up. These are dishes Antoinette made from the heart with her family and friends in mind, doing her own spin on well known dishes and naming them after those she loves. Though it seems irrelevant, Baron has weaved not only the titles of the dishes but the stories behind the names and the slow change they create in Warren seamlessly, making the reader want to find out more of these dishes. This story line overlaps with Antoinette's as much as can be expected when one character prefers to be alone, creating the illusion of a solitary life even in the midst of family.

Throughout the book, all three characters' personalities come through strongly and develop masterfully. The mystery behind Joseph's amnesia and what will become of Warren and Antoinette provide intrigue while the simple romantic element of not only Antoinette's memories but a potential spark between Warren and a caretaker at the senior complex his mother lives at builds the bonds. The manner in which these three finally connect is stunning and something hard to piece together, even if the reader can predict some aspects. The overall layout is hidden until the perfect moment in which Baron sideswipes the reader, uniting these three and providing closure.

This is a story that will resonate after the final word, filling the reader with the climax of intense emotion built throughout. As with Baron's previous novel *Crossing The Bridge*, his understandable of not only the English language but the complexities of emotion come through the pages, a series of words weaved beautifully yet simply. This is a romance to pick up, a story to engage in, and a plot to remember.

Karla Goforth Abreu says

I was hooked at the beginning of this book. Yet midway I began to suspect what direction it was leading, and I was correct. I will not say due to the fact it would be spoilers. Yet, that direction took away what had the potential to be a quite good novel. Nevertheless, the story does affirm loyalty and love. The culinary theme adds a layer of interest to the storyline.

Brenda says

I really loved this story. The description as found on Good Reads really does justice to the story. I did read the story really quickly and it took me a while to figure out what was going to happen at the ending. I loved how he tied all the ends up in a great bow that I would truly love to believe. I would love to believe this is what happens to our people when they pass on and would love to know they would perhaps go on a journey such as this. Anyone with a parent who has dementia or Alzheimers would love to read this story. I know I was able to relate due to my mother in law who passed away two years ago. I thought of her often while reading this book. A great journey home!

As found on Good Reads:

Joseph, a man in his late thirties, awakens disoriented and uneasy in a place he doesn't recognize. Several people are near him when he opens his eyes, all strangers. All of them seem perfectly friendly, but none of them can explain to him how he got there. They offer him a delicious meal and pleasant conversation in a beautifully decorated room. This would be a very nice experience if not for one thing: Joseph doesn't know where he is and he has no way to contact his wife, who he is sure is worried sick over him. Thanking the people for their hospitality, he leaves to make his way back home. The only problem is that whatever happened to him has stripped him of most of his memories. He knows he needs to get back to his wife, but he doesn't know how to find her. He sets out on a journey to find his home with no sense of where he's going and only the precious, indelible vision of the woman he loves to guide him.

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Michael says

He started well but he tripped and fell. I like that little rhyme and it applied perfectly to this book for me.

The story started with a nice little mystery and went right downhill for me from there. In the end the mystery really didn't amount to anything more than a plot device and in between the beginning and the end I went back and forth between feeling like I was reading a cookbook and watching a Lifetime Movie Network movie. The writing felt stunted to me and the dialogue was sometimes a little bit awkward.

I don't mean to say this was a bad book. It was good enough to keep me reading until the end and when I finished, despite my complaints, I was left with a good feeling and there's something to be said for that. I think fans of this genre will enjoy this book very much. I probably would have enjoyed it more if the story had a gun or a zombie or a six foot redhead so take my little review here for what it's worth.

Liz says

A man in wakes up in a strange house with no recollection of how he ended up there. he is told by the group of strangers that they found him on the sidewalk out front and they don't know how he got there. He goes to leave the next day after resting, and meets a young man who decides to help him out and jar his memory to find his home. Joseph has a lot of cash, knows his name, but no ID and tries to find his way home, William has the car so they travel all over the place until he finds his way.

There is also another story going on in this novel about a man dealing with his mother's alzheimers. He goes and visits her in her assisted living home and cooks meals for her every day to try and draw her out. She is constantly relieving her early years with her husband who passed a way a few years ago. She even talks out loud, and her son listens to her getting farther and farther away from the present. As he continues to cook lunches at the home, a nurse ends up joining him every day and they start up a good relationship.

These people are all connected. Joseph finds his way after smelling a distinctive smell of a meal while in a diner that his wife used to make. He causes a commotion in the kitchen and leaves out a back door where all of a sudden he is transformed from an young man to an old man, he realizes what the smell is, and then suddenly realizes the young man he has been traveling with is his deceased son that died at 14 months old. He meets back up with his son and they head immediately to his living wife in the assisted living home. Warren hears his mother stir in the bedroom and goes to check in on her to realize she is talking to her deceased husband. He leaves her be. Joseph and Antoinette have a nice, long talk. You realize the Joseph is deceased and Antoinette shortly follows him in the afterlife. She meets up with her deceased son and they end up back in the house where Joseph woke up with no recollection. Antoinette sees her deceased family members. Warren and Jan fall for each other and start a loving relationship together.

This was a rather sweet, short book. I felt so bad for Warren with feeling so helpless for his mother and hoping she would be herself and stop reliving the past, but that is part of alzheimers.

nicole says

Free nook book

I enjoyed this book. It was reminiscent of a Mitch Albom type of book with a sweet ending. I figured out the plot of the book fairly early, but overall it was a heartfelt novel.

Jenne says

Got it on a "free Friday" for my Nook quite some time ago and kept putting off reading it because I had "better" books to read. It was a fairly quick read at only 133 pages and it drew me in pretty quickly. It was suggested as "if you like Nicholas Sparks..." and I can see why they would relate the two, although it had none of the classic Sparks elements!! Overall, I would recommend it to others. Especially if the price was good! A good book!

Wendy Hines says

Joseph wakes up disoriented and confused. He doesn't know where he is, where he is from, or where he should be. He remembers a woman, and her love, but he doesn't remember anything else. He doesn't remember how she looks, her name, or where they live. He just knows she is his wife and he needs to find

her.

Antoinette is an elderly woman living in an assisted care facility. She just wants to sleep and dream of her days with her late husband, Don. They've always called each other Don and Hannah, an inside joke, even though it's not their real names. She relives moments with him when she dreams, and she doesn't want to wake up.

Warren is Antoinette's son. He recently lost his job and his marriage crashed. He spends his days with his mom, hoping to draw her from her bed and back to the land of the living. He begins to cook lunches for her everyday, meals she had cooked for him growing up. The smells bring back memories and those few moments of lucidity make all the work of cooking an elaborate meal for lunch worth it.

Then there is Will, a young teenager who befriends Joseph. He insists on assisting Joseph on his quest for home and the two of them set out on a journey. The three journeys will collide into an emotional filled ending that will leave you breathless.

The Journey Home is a heart-warming story of love. But also, a heart-breaking story watching Antoinette fade away from the living, preferring to live in the past when her husband was alive. A story that is real and will touch you in many different facets. Michael Baron has a gift. He has penned such an emotional and memorable tale that will stay with you long after the last page. Simply beautiful.

Jonita says

"Crossing the Bridge" by Michael Baron was one of the first books that I read in 2010, and it wasn't one of my favourites because I had some issues with some of the characters. However, I did enjoy Baron's writing style, so I thought that I would give his latest, "The Journey Home" a try. I'm glad that I was willing to give Baron a chance to wow me, because this one was very different (in a good way!) from his last one.

The story begins as Joseph, a man in his late 30's, wakes up in a strange house, completely disoriented. He has no idea who he is, other than the fact that his name is Joseph, and he doesn't know what event landed him where he is now. He fleetingly remembers his wife, in snatches of memory that come and go, but he has no idea where she is or how he can find her. With little to guide him, Joseph sets out to find his wife, who he is sure is worried about him, and he takes Will, a teenager looking for adventure, along for the ride.

Meanwhile, Antoinette is an elderly woman living in a nursing home who is slowly losing her grip on reality. Rather than deal with the present she would rather sleep, where she has the most wonderful dreams about her deceased husband, Don, and all of the things that they used to do. Her son, Warren, recently divorced and now unemployed, visits his mother frequently, trying to replicate the wonderful recipes that she created when he was young in an attempt to lure her back to the present.

These three people are all searching for a very different version of home, and their journey to get there is an emotional ride.

I really enjoyed "The Journey Home". I had no problems connecting with the characters, and I felt especially drawn to Joseph. His disorientation was heartbreaking; he followed smells and feelings in a desperate attempt to be reunited with his wife. He can't remember her name, or what her face looks like, but he can remember how much he loves her. I also enjoyed the character of Warren. Instead of becoming a broken man- he's freshly divorced, newly unemployed, and he's losing his mother to dementia and old age- he throws all of his energy into making his mother happy. The ending of Warren's story was definitely my

favourite.

In fact, the best part of the book was the ending. This isn't to discount the beginning and middle of the book, it was just that the ending utterly surprised and pleased me. It isn't often that an author can surprise me with an ending (usually I can anticipate them well ahead of time). There was a point when I wondered how the story could possibly end that would make any sense, but Baron managed that and more. It's what made this book memorable.

This book is short (only 176 pages), but it packs a punch. The short length will also make it the perfect read for busy moms this summer, as it only took me a couple of hours to read it from start to finish.

Gail Willis says

I found this to be a nice well written fiction novel. I was surprised later to learn that it is considered a Christian novel. My surprise was that it was not preachy or read like a Jack Chick tract it's a novel about regular people.

Patrícia says

O amor, quando verdadeiro, é uma emoção eterna. Imutável. Extremamente consciente. E mesmo quando é a morte aquela que impede duas almas gémeas de continuarem a sua vivência em conjunto, o sentimento persiste, bem lá no fundo, sempre pulsante, sempre inebriante, sempre incontestável.

«Ao Encontro do Nosso Amor» trata-se de um romance suave e bastante subtil, que envereda pelos caminhos sinuosos e tortuosos do amor, quando este nos é retirado pelo tempo que se esgotou ou pelo sentimento que se extinguiu. Ensina, assim, que nem sempre se deve perder a esperança de, um dia, voltar a reencontrar aquele ou aquela que nos fará feliz, incondicional e perpetuamente, muito para além da finitude dos nossos dias.

Esta foi a minha estreia em Michael Baron, uma escrita que me apelou de imediato e que me embalou e guiou numa viagem emocional e intrigante pela busca e compleição de um dos sentimentos mais importantes – o amor. Mas também a amizade se encontra presente, a força familiar, o querer ser-se algo melhor, alguém mais saudável e talvez pela magnitude das emoções retratadas, e pela forma simples como estão descritas, este foi um livro que me deixou com uma imensa vontade em descobrir mais sobre outras histórias «reais» do autor.

Opinião completa, em:

<http://pedacinho-literario.blogspot.p...>
