



The Year We Left Home: A Novel

By Jean Thompson

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A *New York Times* bestseller in hardcover, *The Year We Left Home* is National Book Award finalist Jean Thompson's mesmerizing, decades-spanning saga of one ordinary American family that captures the turbulent history of the country at large.

Named a *New York Times* Editors' Choice, a *People* magazine "Pick of the Week," and an Indie Next and Midwest Connections selection, *The Year We Left Home* is the career-defining novel that Jean Thompson's admirers have been waiting for: a sweeping and emotionally powerful story of a single American family during the tumultuous final decades of the twentieth century.

Stretching from the early 1970s in the Iowa farmlands to suburban Chicago and across the map of contemporary America, *The Year We Left Home* follows the Erickson siblings as they confront prosperity and heartbreak, setbacks and triumphs, and seek their place in a country whose only constant seems to be breathtaking change. Ambitious and richly told, this is a vivid and moving meditation on our continual pursuit of happiness and an incisive exploration of the national character.

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The Year We Left Home: A Novel By Jean Thompson Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Bookended by two wars—Vietnam and Iraq—Thompson's third novel (after the collection *Do Not Deny Me*) sketches the travails of an Iowa family over three decades. Matriarch Audrey neatly sums up the episodic novel's grand theme: "she'd been born into one world, hopeful and normal, and now she lived in another, full of sadness and failure." The novel opens as oldest daughter Anita, the beauty of the family, celebrates her marriage. Over the years, however, Anita confronts dissatisfaction with herself and disillusionment with her pompous husband. Her younger brother, Ryan, a high school senior as the novel opens, longs to escape his rural roots, dating a hippie poet and majoring in political science before realizing that the farmers who came before him might hold more relevance than he'd imagined. Cousin Chip comes back from Vietnam troubled and aimless, his wanderings from Seattle to Reno, Nev., to Veracruz, Mexico, offering a parallel to the spiritual restlessness all the other characters feel. Told from the point of view of more than a half-dozen characters, the vignettes that make up the narrative are generally powerful in isolation, but as a whole fail to develop into anything more than a series of snapshots of a family touched by time and tragedy. (May)
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Review

"Wise and absorbing, this is one not to miss." —*People*

"An extraordinarily warm-hearted novel." —Jonathan Dee, *The New York Times Book Review*

"*The Year We Left Home* plumbs the American heart with rigor and intensity, seamlessly connecting one family's fortunes to those of the larger national community." —Liza Nelson, *O: The Oprah Magazine*

"Startlingly good . . . You may forget that the characters don't really exist, that the Iowa farm family so expertly drawn by the author never drew breath themselves." —Julia Keller, *Chicago Tribune*

"Fantastic . . . Enormously satisfying . . . Thompson has a light, exquisite touch. . . . Rich, detailed, resonant, emotionally spot-on." —Bill Eichenberger, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

"Enlightening and quietly brilliant . . . Thompson is a master at mining the most ridiculous of human foibles while never losing compassion for her flawed characters." —Connie Ogle, *The Miami Herald*

"Wry and tender . . . Such is Thompson's artistry that moments of everyday sorrow and nobility made me weep." —John Repp, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*

"Told with extraordinary grace . . . The clan at the center of Jean Thompson's spare, startlingly resonant new novel remain inextricably linked to the place that made them, even as they reach for lives richer in both geography and purpose." —Leah Greenblatt, *Entertainment Weekly*

"A smart, resonant novel." —*Boston Globe*

"Powerful and darkly humorous . . . Thompson's characters are sharply drawn and deeply familiar. Her dialogue is pitch-perfect." —Laurie Hertzler, *Minneapolis Star Tribune*

About the Author

Jean Thompson is the author of the short story collections *Do Not Deny Me*, *Throw Like a Girl*, and *Who Do You Love*, a 1999 National Book Award finalist for fiction, and the novels *City Boy* and *Wide Blue Yonder*, a *New York Times* Notable Book and *Chicago Tribune* Best Fiction selection. Visit her at JeanThompsonOnline.com.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Edward Baca:

Book is to be different per grade. Book for children until eventually adult are different content. To be sure that book is very important usually. The book *The Year We Left Home: A Novel* ended up being making you to know about other know-how and of course you can take more information. It is quite advantages for you. The publication *The Year We Left Home: A Novel* is not only giving you more new information but also to become your friend when you feel bored. You can spend your own spend time to read your reserve. Try to make relationship with the book *The Year We Left Home: A Novel*. You never really feel lose out for everything if you read some books.

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Ezra Talbott:

The reason? Because this *The Year We Left Home: A Novel* is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will jolt you with the secret this inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who write the book in such awesome way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book get such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking method. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I have been you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

Antonio Fells:

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you already been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love The Year We Left Home: A Novel, you are able to enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

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