

Home is Where You Are

By Veronica Potenza, Technology and Reference Librarian

This time of year is filled with celebrations and togetherness. These reads are sure to get you into the spirit of the season and remind us all about what truly matters: family, friends, love, and forgiveness.

For fans of fiction, *The Identicals* by Elin Hilderbrand is about twin sisters Harper and Tabitha who reunite to bring their family back together after a crisis. They try to overcome an old rivalry and local gossip as they realize their bond and their family is more important. *Between Friends* by Debbie Macomber follows two women for over thirty years. Jillian and Lesley rely on their powerful friendship throughout all the trials and joys life has to offer. The story is told through letters and journal entries. *A Place for Us* by Fatima Farheen Mirza is about an Indian-American Muslim family who reunites for a wedding. As the children focus on their new life, their parents try to pass on their traditions. Their bond is tested as they struggle with their identities and choices between old and new.

For real life stories, try *Glitter and Glue* by Kelly Corrigan, a memoir that focuses on the bond between a mother and daughter. When her life doesn't turn out as planned, Corrigan reflects on all the advice her mother gave her. *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls recounts the author's less than ideal childhood with her peculiar family. While it's honest about the negative aspects, it also shows how love and loyalty prevails. In *My Girls*, Todd Fisher shares stories about his life with his famous mother Debbie Reynolds and sister Carrie Fisher. It pays tribute to the mother-son and brother-sister relationships.

Younger readers can try *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio, recently made into a movie. Auggie was born with a facial difference and wants to be treated like everyone else. His family and friends help him as he grows more confident. *My Most Excellent Year* by Steve Kluger follows best friends T.C. and Augie throughout a year as they begin to grow up, meet new people and learn about themselves, while their friendship keeps getting stronger. In *Notes from the Midnight Driver* by Jordan Sonnenblick, 16 year old Alex forms an unexpected, but mutually valuable friendship with a senior while doing community service at a retirement home.

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Ask a librarian how to access Novelist, a database that you can access using your library card that will help you find your next great read.

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