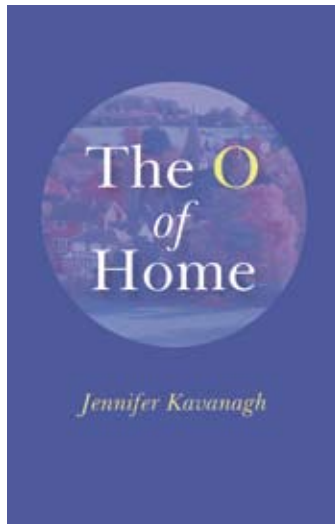




The O of Home

by Jennifer Kavanagh

(publication date: January 2010)



What does the word “home” mean to you?

“Home is not just four walls or the country we were born in.

It is not a locked door, an investment, a legal address, or a nation with rigid borders. Home is where the heart is: a yearning for a precious past, a dream of something that has never been, or a present reality. Home is in relationship – with our families, in community, and with the whole of creation.

The qualities of home are reflected in the circle (O), an ancient symbol for safety, equality, inclusiveness, and eternity. But we will never be at home unless we are at home to ourselves.

Home is where we all want to be.”

ISBN: 978-1-84694-264-8

For more information, visit www.o-books.net

There is a great deal of truth in the statement that homelessness is a state of mind although that is not the whole truth of course. It is utterly miserable, and frightening to be without shelter and vulnerable to the world. As Jennifer Kavanagh points out in this book the concept of home means so much more than having an adequate place to live. It is, as she says, "Where we all want to be". This book is important reading for anyone who would seek to explore the concept further. It would form an ideal basis for discussion groups or those who are seeking to establish support for the homeless.

Terry Waite CBE

Home – in the heart, in the head, a physical space that shifts and moves with emotions, a locale, a dream, a site of conflict and cruelty and also intimacy and safety, homelands, exile – all this and more are explored in this tender and moving book which makes you wonder what home really is or ever was.

Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, columnist and author of *Settlers Cookbook a memoir*

This is a book that opens the heart. Tender, thought-provoking, compassionate, and insightful, it leads us on a circular journey from understanding what we need and mean by home, through experiences of homelessness and forced displacement, to a true coming home to the self and the divine.

Marian McNaughton, chair of trustees, *Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust*

Home – the longing for it, the loss of it, the need for it – is one of the defining images in a modern world of travel, globalisation and uncertainty. In exploring the many meanings and interpretations of the word, Jennifer Kavanagh has produced a memorable and important book.

Caroline Moorehead, author of *Human Cargo*

This book drew me in. It's like a wonderful soup: lots of finely, delicately chopped nutritious ingredients, each retaining their own tang and individuality, yet creating a whole that draws you on to take another mouthful – and another. I marvelled at how, again and again, Jennifer takes us with so few and deft words into someone's life and story.

Douglas Board, Founder of Maslow's Attic Ltd and chair of trustees, *Refugee Council*

If 'home' is a theatre of soul, then that which is front-stage in one life, may simply be waiting back-stage or in the wings of another. Jennifer Kavanagh is a good narrator, she takes us to the heart of what matters in so many lives, and I am at home in the audience, listening with so many others, and saying to myself: Oh Yes! Oh Yes! This is the way it is, and, surely together in some way we can help each other to feel more at home in the world.

Lindsay Halton, architect and author of *The Secret of Home*