



# The Way Home Looks Now

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## **The Way Home Looks Now** Wendy Wan-Long Shang

Twelve-year-old Chinese American Peter Lee and his family always shared a passion for baseball, bonding over backlot games and the Pittsburgh Pirates. But when a devastating tragedy strikes, the family flies apart and Peter's mom becomes paralyzed by grief, drifting further and further from her family.

Hoping to lift his mother's spirits, Peter decides to try out for Little League. But his plans become suddenly complicated when his strict and serious father volunteers to coach the team. His dad's unconventional teaching methods rub some of Peter's teammates the wrong way, and Peter starts to wonder if playing baseball again was the right idea -- and if it can even help his family feel less broken. Can the game they all love eventually bring them back together, safe at home?

Acclaimed author Wendy Wan-Long Shang brings her signature warmth, gentle humor, and wisdom to this poignant story of healing and loss, family, and the great American pastime, baseball.

## **The Way Home Looks Now Details**

Date : Published April 28th 2015 by Scholastic Press

ISBN : 9780545609562

Author : Wendy Wan-Long Shang

Format : Hardcover 272 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Sports and Games, Sports, Childrens, Middle Grade, Family, Realistic Fiction, Death, Baseball

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## **From Reader Review The Way Home Looks Now for online ebook**

### **Moira says**

You will cry, you will cheer, you will sit on the edge of your seat. And if you are like me, you will walk around the house with this book in your hand because you don't want to stop reading it just to get a glass of tea. This is such a realistic, sad, funny and heart-wrenching look at grief. Shang deftly takes you through the world of grief after the death of a 17-year old boy and shows how the family--especially the younger brother--manages to find a way to cope and forge ahead with life. And what an amazing, exciting tale of baseball (which as we all know is not usually anywhere near as exciting as hockey!). READ IT!

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### **Michelle Simpson says**

This is a heartwarming story of Peter Lee and his family. They share a genuine love for the game of baseball, but a tragedy changes the dynamics within their family. Peter tries to move forward by joining a baseball team. During this time he sees that they all handle their grief differently. This one was hard for me to put down once I got into the story.

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### **Jacqueline says**

This book is beautiful in every way. Peter's passion for baseball is artfully woven into a story of family, grief, and learning who you are. Peter is a character who will resonant with boys and girls alike. His complicated relationship with his father grows to a moving crescendo in this story. This is a book that kids, parents, and teachers should read.

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### **Paula says**

A really lovely story about how grief can affect a family, and the different ways they try to cope with it. A love of baseball has been a common bond for Peter and his immediate family, with the exception of his father, Ba. So when tragedy strikes, Peter eventually tries to see if baseball can bring happiness back to his depressed and grieving mother. What he doesn't expect is that it will help him better understand Ba, and bring him closer to accepting his own feelings of grief and loss. There is no definitive happy ending, just the promise that things will get better

Although this novel is set in the early 70's during the Vietnam War, the war doesn't have any real bearing on the story other than as a source of disagreement between Peter's older brother Nelson and Ba. This family, whose parents are from Taiwan, apparently lives in a mostly white suburb, and there are some incidents of racist behavior. There is also a secondary storyline dealing with "women's lib" (oh, it's been a long time since I've heard that term).

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## **Esther | braveliteraryworld says**

### GENERAL

- read for Battle of the Books club

### LIKES:

- appreciated the ambivalent ending. Life is ambivalent, and I appreciate when literature reflects that.
- I don't usually like sports books, but this one used sports as a vehicle to discussing familial themes.
- As a Taiwanese American, I always love me some good Taiwanese American protagonists.

### DISLIKES:

- There were a lot of micro-aggression comments that went unanswered. I wish those were addressed at least once, by one of the characters.
  - The plot twist around one of the characters on the baseball team felt out of nowhere, and was distracting to the central story. It felt like a different plot altogether.
  - The only reason why this was not rated higher was because I wanted more. There was so much room for richness and pathos and character development, but the writer didn't take advantage of it.
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## **The Styling Librarian says**

The Way Home Looks Now by Wendy Wan-Long Shang – Historical Fiction – Really enjoyed this touching book. To be released April 28th, 2015-

Book Talk: Baseball, can baseball save his family? That's what Peter is hoping when he takes a risk. He learns more about his Dad and has a little hope for the future.

I appreciate when you anticipate something for an entire book and an author doesn't really provide you with an outcome if it makes sense... Loved reading about lovely family that has a pretty happy life until a devastating event that changes almost everything. This book tears you up as you read the struggle Peter Lee has trying to communicate with his parents, recover from loss, and find a new direction for his life. Quite recommended.

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## **Chalida says**

Another wonderful book by Shang. Peter, a 12-year-old Chinese American, deals with life after tragedy and watches how his family confronts grief. A beautiful portrait of family and baseball and life during the Vietnam War as a Chinese American. I love tenderly crafted Ba and the sacrifices he makes for his children. His evolution is subtle and warm. Shang captures the changing times of the 60s with women, immigrants and pick-up game baseball. Liam is re-reading because he loved so much the first time.

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## **Madelyn says**

I hate using the word "moving" because it's overused, plus I fear it will scare people off, but it's the right

word so here I go: This book moved me to laughter (see? nothing to be scared of) and tears -- not to mention the places where my eyes stung but the wet stuff didn't actually leak out of them. This is life after a bad thing happens, where some people go on and LIVE and some people stop living, from the POV of a kid who is trying to figure out how to make everything (and everybody) work again. Baseball is center stage, along with Wendy Shang's deft observations of American culture, Chinese-American culture, and Middle School culture. FTW.

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### **Gabrielle Schwabauer says**

No one element of this book stood out to me enough to rate it as incredible, but I'd happily pass it on to any kid. Several difficult topics were handled with nuance, and the author avoided easy answers or trite solutions. This book took me back to my own childhood recesses and ball games, afternoons with one hand sweating inside a leather glove, the slide of runner into base, the sound of kids yelling chants and rattling a chain-link fence. Simply put, this book made me miss baseball, and I barely even played!

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### **Yoo Kyung Sung says**

I appreciate how Wandy Wan-Long Shang's books portray Asian American, more specifically, Chinese-Americans and Taiwanese-American experiences as cosmopolitans in terms of describing Asian characters as members of transnational community. *The Way Home Looks Now* portrays stories of a young Taiwanese-American boy, Peter and his family. Peter's father who Peter calls Ba is a strict and conservative Taiwan-born man who is not that far from typical Asian fathers who are often portrayed in stores someone inflexible but rule-based. Peter has a big brother Nelson who is biculturally insightful and a baby sister, Laney. After his brother, Nelson, was killed by car accident, things are dramatically changed. Most of all, Peter's mom goes through heavy depression. She cannot play the active mediator when Peter and Ba face heavy tension. The story depicts several themes through great baseball connections. Team spirit, gender issues and even subtle microaggression are embedded in story. Ba volunteers to be a coach for the baseball team and participating games and facing issues to maintain the team gradually changes Peter and Ba both to be open for each other.

The story conveys universal themes in personal relationship, gender stereotypes, death, and school. However, Shang did great job to implement cultural connections and information while she challenges subtle social gaze of Otherness toward "Orientals" whose names and languages are different from their names-- "How do you say 'shut up' in Chinese? Is it ching chang chong?" " p. 112. Ba brings up several cultural awareness. 1) How the nation of Taiwan started to be different from China 2) What Confucianism is and how it affect Ba for his transnational cultural ethos 3) Japan occupied Taiwan and Trainees Baseball team was born under Japanese influence 4) Even baseball play has different styles between American styles and Taiwanese styles 5) Even though Peter is an Asian (Taiwanese-American), he still should study about Asian history like Korean war

This book may inform the internal diversity under Asian-Americans. Touch of brief Taiwanese history and cultural ethos are applied in authentic ways while it doesn't make Peter as foreigner but enhance his being a member of "one of us" to audience like baseball creates "We" spirit for all boy characters and the girl baseball player, Erin.

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**pati says**

Tragedy can really derail a person and it wrecks havoc on Peter's family. Great book - I really like Peter's father, Ba.

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**Hoover Public Library Kids and Teens says**

Publisher's Weekly sums this one up perfectly -- "A grieving Chinese-American family begins to find strength and healing through a shared passion for baseball in this warm, hopeful novel set in 1972."

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**Mady Dailey says**

Review is from Books in Print <http://www.booksinprint.com/DetailedV...>

School Library Journal

( March 01, 2015; 9780545609562 )

Gr 4-6-Twelve-year-old Peter just wants his home to be the way it was before-before his mother stopped talking, before she started sitting on the couch staring at the TV, and before his older brother died in a car accident. Peter's father is a strict Chinese immigrant who stresses homework, emphasizes respect for authority, and forbids baseball. Peter's mother and siblings loved the sport before his brother died; now baseball is no longer played or even talked about in the family. Peter becomes convinced that the way to get his mother back is to join Little League and play baseball again. He persuades his father to allow him to play, but during tryouts so many children show up that another coach is needed and Peter's father volunteers. This stressful dynamic shows Peter a different side of his father, a man who is mourning his son, loves his family, knows a lot about baseball, and believes in fairness. Peter is a fully realized character, but the rest of his family and most of the players on his team fall flat. VERDICT Though the plot occasionally gets bogged down with too many side stories, this heartwarming story is still a worthy purchase.-Lisa Nabel, Dayton Metro Library, OH (c) Copyright 2015. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

The review discusses Peter's father very well as a man who wants his children to succeed in their studies and be respectful of their elders. Throughout the book, Peter always tried so hard to get his mother's attention and just have a conversation with her. But with the loss of Peter's oldest brother, mom was always on the couch and never interacted with the family anymore. I had emotions of sadness and anger toward this situation while reading. Peter never gave up though and was always looking for ways to get mom to interact and talk with him and the family. He worked hard in baseball and got to know another side of his father when his father became his baseball coach.

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### **Rebecca McNutt says**

This was a very well-written kid's book, the way I remember them being when I was a kid, before they just got repetitive and boring. *The Way Home Looks Now* is not only interesting to read, but it's also original and it teaches kids about the values of love, family, friendship and playing outside, whether it's baseball, horseback riding, swimming, walking, bowling or any other activity that brings people together.

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### **Donny Barbanente says**

This book was a mixture of inspiring and just a good book. It talk alot about how they overcome things and is just in general a good book. I hope someone takes the time to read this book because it is in fact a very good book.

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