

GYASI, Yas. (2016). Homegoing: A Novel. United Kingdom: Charnwood Publishing Ltd.

My daughter urged me to read this book last summer. I started it on my vacation and found it compelling and so engrossing that I had trouble putting it down. I would read every evening and continue until the wee hours in the morning. Once I finished, I immediately started reading it again. The second read was even richer and more rewarding than the first.

Homegoing is an epic novel that spans 300 years. It starts by following the lives of two half-sisters, Effia and Esi, born in two very different villages in Africa. It tells the story of their descendants and the impact that slavery had on the lives of those that were kidnapped from Africa and brought to distant shores as slaves in a foreign land, and those that remained behind.

This is the debut novel of Yas Gyasi. She was born in Ghana, grew up in Huntsville, Alabama and is a graduate and fellow of the Iowa Writer's workshop. Homegoing is beautifully written. It is one of those rare finds that you want to share with just about everyone. It is a great book for any book discussion group and has a reading guide to go with it.

Kathleen Ault, PMHNP-BC, CGP