



Still Come Home

Reading Group Invitation

Katey Schultz, author of *Still Come Home*, would be delighted to visit your Reading Group. Please contact her at **katey.schultz@gmail.com** to make arrangements for a video chat. Please include the following in your email:

- The date and time that your group usually meets, along with one or two alternative dates and times that might work.
- Where in the country your group is located and if it is affiliated with a bookstore or any other organization.
- How many members you expect to attend.



Still Come Home can be purchased at your local bookstore, online at Amazon or any major book retailer, or directly from Loyola University Maryland's Apprentice House Press at www.apprenticehouse.com.

Signed copies may be purchased and shipped directly from the author. Please email her to arrange payment at **katey.schultz@gmail.com** and indicate number of copies, along with any gift inscriptions or personalized notes.

Contact: Katey Schultz
katey.schultz@gmail.com

This Reading Group Guide and Invitation are available to download at
<https://kateyschultz.com/still-come-home/>.



Author: Katey Schultz

Page count: 260

Hardcover Price: \$26.99

Paperback Price: \$16.99

eBook Price: \$6.99

Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-62720-230-5

Paperback ISBN: 978-1-62720-231-2

Size: 6 X 9

Pub date: October 1, 2019

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Still Come Home

Katey Schultz

When the odds are stacked against you, doing everything right still might not be enough to protect yourself and the ones you love. The three characters in Katey Schultz's novel are each searching for the best way to be, the best way to live—all the while fighting cultural, societal, and political forces far beyond their control. As their paths intersect over the span of three days, *Still Come Home* explores how their decisions will forever alter each other's lives.

Aaseya, an ambitious, educated Afghan girl, struggles to walk the line between social disgrace and faith that her hometown of Imar can unhardened and heal. Though she cannot bear her older husband, Rahim, a child, and she suspects her sister-in-law played a part in her family's murder, Aaseya maintains self-reliance and dignity by rebelling against the misogyny and violence surrounding her.

Second Lieutenant Nathan Miller blames himself for the death of a soldier under his command and worries that his constant absence from his North Carolina home has permanently damaged his marriage.

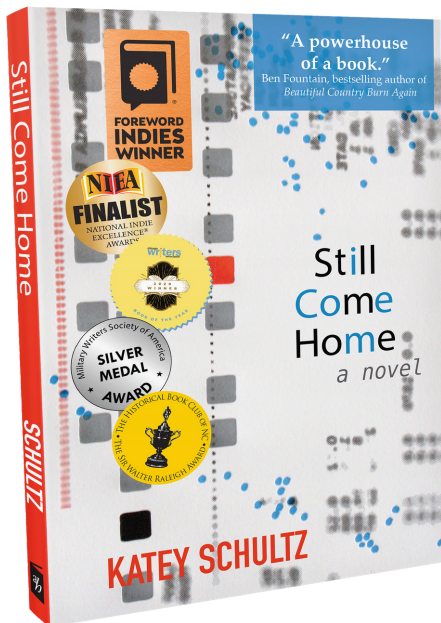
When Rahim learns that the Taliban, whom he reluctantly works for, are hatching this violent plan, conflicting loyalties to country, to enduring peace, and to his young wife take all three down a road that will change their lives forever.

"Schultz's ability to enter into these radically different lives is nothing short of breathtaking. There is tragedy here, but also humor, moral blindness, along with deep courage. And the desert holds it all."

—Abigail DeWitt, author of *News of Our Loved Ones*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

KATEY SCHULTZ is the author of *Flashes of War*, which the *Daily Beast* praised as an "ambitious and fearless" collection, and *Still Come Home*, a novel, both published by Loyola University Maryland. Honors for her work include North Carolina's Sir Walter Raleigh Award for Fiction, the Linda Flowers Literary Award, Doris Betts Fiction Prize, *Foreword* INDIES Book of the Year award, gold and silver medals from the Military Writers Society of America, the Chicago Writer's Association Book of the Year award, five Pushcart nominations, a nomination to *Best American Short Stories*, National Indies Excellence recognition, and writing fellowships in eight states. She lives in Celo, North Carolina, and is the founder of Maximum Impact, a transformative mentoring service for creative writers that has been recognized by both CNBC and the What Works Network. Learn more at www.kateyschultz.com.





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Reading Group Discussion Questions

1. How are the lives of these vastly different characters the same? How are they different?
2. How does each character in *Still Come Home* experience the day-to-day impact of war?
3. *Still Come Home* explores the effects of war on the individual, on families, and on society. What does *Still Come Home* show us about each?
4. Do you blame Rahim for working for the Taliban? Do you blame the U.S. military for paying Afghan trucking companies?
5. In what ways are both Aaseya and Miller fighting against cultural norms? In what ways are they conforming to what is expected of them?
6. How does Ghazel's presence comfort Aaseya? Do you believe they are using each other for good or bad reasons?
7. How have the characters' experiences in *Still Come Home* changed how you understand war?
8. For each of the characters in *Still Come Home*, what does it mean to remain true to one's self?
9. What does the title, *Still Come Home*, mean to you?
10. What do you imagine the next chapter of Aaseya, Rahim, Ghazel, and Miller's lives to look like?



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Video Chat Instructions

Author Katey Schultz is excited to meet with your Reading Group! Katey will start out the meeting with a brief reading from *Still Come Home* and then a discussion on the book and how it came to be. This will be followed by a Q&A. Katey will finish up with some questions of her own for the group. However, if you have a different format in mind, she is more than happy to let you lead the way! Please email Katey with your ideas.

Below are instructions and ideas to make the meeting great for everyone:

1. Make sure that your meeting space has a strong Internet connection.
2. Katey prefers to use Zoom to facilitate video chats. The link for your specific Reading Group will be shared by email. You can sign up for a free account here: <https://www.zoom.us/>.
3. Katey is available to meet for up to an hour.
4. *Still Come Home* can be purchased at your local bookstore, online at Amazon or any major book retailer, or directly from Apprentice House at www.apprenticehouse.com.

If you haven't already, please email Katey at **katey.schultz@gmail.com** with the following information:

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