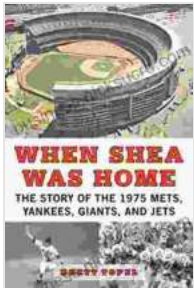


# When Shea Was Home: A Haunting and Insightful Exploration of War's Legacy



## When Shea Was Home: The Story of the 1975 Mets, Yankees, Giants, and Jets by Brett Topel

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 5431 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 157 pages



War is a brutal and devastating force that leaves an everlasting mark on individuals and society as a whole. Amidst the chaos and destruction, the human spirit endures, struggling to find meaning and healing in the aftermath of conflict. *When Shea Was Home*, a powerful and poignant novel by Marie Myung-Ok Lee, delves into the profound and enduring impacts of war, exploring the complexities of family, loyalty, trauma, and the search for redemption.

### A Tale of Love, Loss, and Redemption

Set in the aftermath of the Korean War, *When Shea Was Home* follows the story of Heung-jo, a young man who returns home after being held captive by the North Koreans. Haunted by the horrors he witnessed and the loss he endured, Heung-jo struggles to reconnect with his family and community. His return home sets off a chain of events that uncovers long-held secrets

and hidden wounds, forcing the family to confront the past and the choices they made during wartime.

At the heart of the novel is the relationship between Heung-jo and his younger sister, Sookan. Sookan had remained in South Korea during the war, where she had to bear witness to the atrocities committed by both sides. The siblings' reunion is a bittersweet one, as they grapple with the emotional scars left by the war. Heung-jo is tormented by guilt and shame, while Sookan carries the burden of secrets she has kept from her brother.

### **The Weight of Trauma and the Search for Healing**

When Shea Was Home is an unflinching portrayal of the psychological and emotional trauma caused by war. Heung-jo and Sookan are both deeply affected by their experiences, struggling with nightmares, flashbacks, and feelings of alienation. Lee masterfully depicts the ways in which trauma can manifest in different ways, shaping the characters' thoughts, behaviors, and relationships.

As the novel progresses, Heung-jo and Sookan embark on a journey of healing and self-discovery. They seek solace in each other, in their memories, and in the resilience of the human spirit. Through acts of remembrance, forgiveness, and compassion, they slowly begin to piece together their shattered lives.

### **A Haunting and Insightful Examination of War**

Beyond its poignant family drama, When Shea Was Home is also a powerful indictment against war. Lee exposes the senselessness and brutality of conflict, and its devastating impact on individuals, families, and communities. The novel's exploration of the lasting consequences of war is

both timely and important, reminding us of the horrors that can befall humanity when violence and hatred prevail.

When Shea Was Home is a beautifully written and deeply moving novel that lingers long after the final page is turned. Lee's prose is lyrical and evocative, capturing the beauty and fragility of life amidst the chaos of war. This is a must-read for anyone interested in the human experience, the complexities of family, and the power of forgiveness and redemption.

### **Themes of When Shea Was Home:**

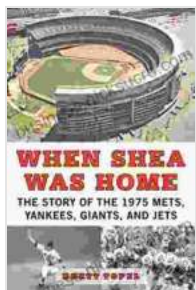
- The enduring impact of war on individuals, families, and society
- The complexities of family relationships and the importance of forgiveness
- The power of memory and the role it plays in healing trauma
- The search for redemption and the possibility of finding peace after conflict
- The devastation of war and the importance of peace and reconciliation

### **About the Author:**

Marie Myung-Ok Lee is an award-winning Korean-American author known for her insightful and powerful novels that explore themes of war, family, and identity. Her works have garnered critical acclaim and have been translated into numerous languages. When Shea Was Home is one of her most celebrated novels, earning her the prestigious Hemingway Foundation/PEN Award.

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When Shea Was Home is a haunting and insightful exploration of the human experience during and after war. Marie Myung-Ok Lee's masterful storytelling and deep understanding of human nature make this novel an essential read for anyone interested in the complexities of family, the devastating impact of conflict, and the enduring power of hope and redemption.



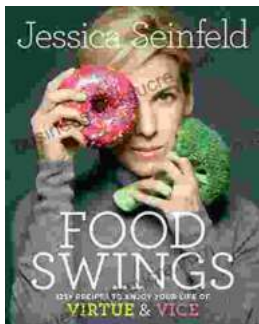
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