



No Place Like Home

Seanan McGuire

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Road trips are wonderful things, filled with adventure, excitement, and questionable lodgings, but there comes a time in every man's life where all he wants is the chance to sleep in his own bed, eat at his own table, and reunite his colony of talking pantheistic mice with their fellows, thus making sleep a little bit more likely. With Buckley Township in his sights, Jonathan Healy is finally going home.

The trouble is, home for him isn't home for Fran, who grew up in the desert, never lived under a fixed roof for more than a week at a time, and has no idea what to expect. To make matters worse, Jonathan's parents—Enid and Alexander Healy, late of the Covenant of St. George—are right on hand to make things more awkward for everyone.

With her future on the line, it's time for Frances Brown to make one of the biggest decisions of her life. Does she stay in Buckley Township and try to make a life with the Healys? Or does she saddle up her horse and ride back into the sunset?

No Place Like Home Details

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From Reader Review No Place Like Home for online ebook

Cathy says

I just found out that McGuire has a whole bunch of free short stories from this series on her website, it's really cool. You can download them in multiple formats, they have gorgeous covers, it's a really professional operation, and almost all for free (she has a few listed that only appeared in anthologies for timeline purposes as well). As of the time of this review there were eighteen free stories! The first and largest group focuses on Jonathan and Frances Healy, the grandparents of the current generation of the family from the novels. This one is from that group.

Meeting the family can be tough, especially when you've never really had one and they're not only tight-knit but also monster-hunters with their own set of neuroses and concerns. This was a short one, but it was a step along their journey. It was nice to meet Jonathan's parents, Enid and Alexander.

Alice says

This is another short story set in the InCryptid universe, and available for now free on the author's website. It continues the narrative of Jonathan Healy and Frances Brown, as they reach the Healy home in Buckley Township, Michigan, and Fran gets to meet the family.

Unless it's covered in "The Flower of Arizona," this is the first long look we get of the Healy home from inside it. Fran's outsider perspective calls a lot of details to light that the rest of the family might take for granted. The story is told entirely through her eyes, and so we get a good idea of just how bizarre this family is. Just a glimpse in the barn would've sent most people running for the hills, but Fran proves she's made of sterner stuff, and therefore that she's worthy of sticking around. Not that she knows if she will.

The story centers around her decision of what to do next, and, if you've read *Discount Armageddon* and/or read the family tree, you already know how that ends. Still, it's fun to watch the story unfold, and to see how part of family lore came to be. Also, the Aeslin mice play a greater role in this story than in "One Hell of a Ride," so it's worth picking up for that reason alone.

Again, this story is available as a free download, and it's a very quick read, so you have very little to lose even if it's not your thing. I'm willing to bet that, if you haven't already added *Discount Armageddon* to your to-read list, you'll do it on the strength of these short stories.

Jessica ❀ ➤ Silverbow ➤ ❀ Rabid Reads-no-more says

Reviewed by: Rabid Reads

0.03 - No Place Like Home

4.0 stars

This short takes place after Jonathan and Fran leave the no-longer-in-a-hell-dimension train, but skips ahead three months to the day when they finally arrive at the Healy home.

It's as lovely:

*She's left Arizona with a man she barely knew, all because he looked at a monster and saw a miracle--a miracle that was about to eat them, but a miracle all the same. The talking mice didn't hurt. **How could she have stayed behind, when there were things like this in the world?***

As it is heartbreaking. While it's clear that Fran is utterly uncomfortable in the presence of a loving family, she's got enough moxie to hold her own . . .

I think it's safe to say that Verity takes after her grandma Fran. Though it must be said, Jonathan's mother Enid is no shrinking violet.

I love these Baker/Healy/Price women.

? Irena ? says

3.5

Unfortunately, there are no monsters in this story. Fran and Jonathan arrive to his home town. His family and his home are nothing what Fran expected. As a single story without any context it wouldn't be bad, but it wouldn't be anything special either. I am not rating it as a standalone though. It is Fran and Jonathan's journey, only this time without monsters.

I really hope the series itself is as good as these stories are. Still, the historical setting makes it easy for me to rate it higher.

Marjolein says

Read all my reviews on <http://urlphantomhive.booklikes.com>

No Place Like Home continues Jonathan's and Fran's story as they arrive in Buckley. This story is slightly different from the rest as there are no monsters, and it is more or a set up for the coming stories.

While it was nice to read, it was really not something that I would recommend reading as a standalone. Luckily, you can get (almost all) short stories free from the author's website.

Nichole says

After an adventurous trip from Arizona to Michigan, Jonathan sure is glad to be home. Now he just has to

explain Fran to his parents and see if she will stay.

Angela says

This story continues Fran (The Priestess of Unexpected Violence) and Jonathan's story - though this one is much quieter in tone and action. Not a lot is going on here except for them getting home and meeting Jonathan's parents - Enid and Alexander....though that's probably quite enough for Fran!

This doesn't work as a standalone story, but it's nice to see the moment when Fran makes the decision that's going to be the rest of her life.

Maria Dimitrova says

I love the Aeslin mice. I just gave this story an extra star because of the mice! They're just so adorable!

In this story we got to meet Jonathan's parents - Alexander and Enid Healy. You know, the guys that said "Screw it! We're out of here!" and left the Covenant of St. George after realising that those fanatics are destroying the natural ecosystems of the world. Jonathan had dragged Fran halfway across the country to his home and now she feels a bit out of place. Add a bit of misunderstanding and temper and you end up with a surprisingly good story considering the lack of monsters.

BrokenMnemonic says

I enjoyed this - it was great to get sight of what the Healy family home looked like two hundred years before the novels, and to see more of the characters who're quoted through the litanies of the Aeslin Mice in later novels.

Robin (Bridge Four) says

Seanan McGuire has written a ton of short stories in this world and all of them are rather short 25-40 pages each but if you are a fan of the series most are free and they are nice as background pieces.

Basically this is just about Fran meeting Jonathan's family and then trying to decide if she should stay with him or go out and try to find a different adventure.

The best part of this short is you get to see Fran's connection to the Aeslin Mice and how she is really attached to them and enjoys being included in some of their cataclysms.

Not a lot happens but it is a good background piece.

Anna says

OK, now I want an InCryptid novel starring Jonathan & Fran, fighting monsters 1920s style. In this final short story (I've only read the latter two, the ones that are freely available on the author's website) Jonathan takes Fran home to Michigan to meet his parents. She gets to meet the whole colony of Aeslin mice as well, and they invite The Priestess Of Unexpected Violence (their name for her) to attend their reunion ritual. It's a charming little taster for the InCryptid universe, and it left me wanting more.

Molly says

Rating 3.5

The tumultuous voyage that started in Tempe, Arizona is over. Jonathan and Fran finally arrive at their destination... Buckley Township, Michigan (home sweet home, for Jonathan) after three long months traveling by train or on horseback, fighting Boundary imps, basilisks and such. It is time to meet the parents.... Fran doesn't feel welcome, and considers making her stay short (you know, riding into the sunset).

Not much happens in this short... the author is just preparing the setting for future adventures. On the bright side we get more of those adorable Aeslin mice.

"The mouse stepped into Fran's palm, proclaiming gleefully, "Hail the Priestess of Unexpected Violence!"

With a pang, Fran realized that she was going to miss the mice more than she would have thought possible."

NOTE: both "One Hell of a Ride" and "No Place Like Home", can be downloaded for free on Seanan McGuire's website.

Link here: <http://seananmcguire.com/icshorts.php...>

Sarah says

3.5 stars

After months of travelling Jonathan and Fran have finally reached their destination, something Jonathan is thrilled about but has Fran feeling less than certain. After battling all kinds of monsters throughout their journey meeting the potential future in laws should be a walk in the park but Fran is nervous and completely out of her comfort zone. Jonathan's parents aren't at all what she was expecting and she's beginning to wonder if this was such a brilliant idea after all.

I don't think this story works particularly well as a standalone because in a lot of ways very little actually happens but for people who have been following this couple's journey it was really good to see them get a moment's peace for a change. The Aeslin Mice are on hand to help Fran feel at home and I love the way they

refer to her as the Priestess of Unexpected Violence. I'm really starting to feel invested in Fran and Jonathan's characters and I'm looking forward to reading more of their story.

Ivy says

Glad that Jonathan got back home safely with Fran. Loved seeing more of the mice. Hope Fran will be with the Healy's for a long time.

Sophie says

A cute lil vignette about Jonathan bringing Fran home to meet the parents. Fran is nervous and doesn't know if she'll fit into the Healy family or if they'll accept her, but I mean come on, the mice have already decided, so obviously she's sticking around.

Contains the Naming of the Frickens. I love Fran.
