

Beloit Daily News  
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One day, in the middle of my Senior year of college, I got a phone call from my mom. She and my dad had recently put my beloved childhood home on the market and she was calling with the good news that it had sold that day. The bad news was it sold very quickly and by the way, could I come home over the weekend and pack up all of my stuff? Literally. All. Of. My. Stuff. Needed to be packed into boxes so that the movers could shove them into some storage unit while my dad frantically worked his fingers to the bone to get the new house they were building ready to move into. Did I care that my parents would probably need to live in a storage unit in the meantime as well? Nope. Did I care that I was going to have to live with my Aunt and Uncle once I graduated from college because the new house wasn't ready yet? Nope (by the way, thanks Aunt Ann for your hospitality!).

No, what I cared about most was that My Stuff and all of My Memories of My Home were reduced to a handful of boxes stacked unceremoniously in the middle of My Bedroom. I really didn't even have a chance to say a proper goodbye to the home that saw me through hide-and-seek games, slumber parties, and much later on, heartache over stupid boyfriends (you know who you are...).

Home means something very special to each of us. Whether you have lived in your home your entire life or you have moved around a bit, we all remember that one house that will always be Home to us.

The NEA Big Read-Stateline invites you to be a part of *Voices and Photos from Home*, a multimedia installation at the Beloit Public Library. On Saturday October 1<sup>st</sup> bring a copy of a photo that represents what home means to you. Or bring your original photo and we will photocopy it. Your photos will be displayed until the end of the Big Read.

For more information on this event and many more visit [www.beloitlibrary.org/event](http://www.beloitlibrary.org/event), Like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter. In the meantime, be sure to check out these books available now at your Beloit Public Library:

*A Piece of Home* by Jeri Watts. A child-friendly story about the trials and triumphs of starting over in a new place while keeping family and traditions close. Lyrical prose and lovely illustrations combine in a gentle, realistic story about finding connections in an unfamiliar world. (Book Description)

*Dream Home: The Property Brothers' Ultimate Guide to Finding & Fixing Your Perfect House* by Jonathan and Drew Scott. ...a comprehensive source, covering the ins and outs of buying, selling, and renovating a house, with hundreds of full-color photos throughout. ...covers numerous topics including the hidden costs of moving, savvy negotiating tactics, and determining your home must-haves. (Book Description)

*The Making of Home: The 500-Year Story of How Our Houses Became Our Homes* by Judith Flanders. ...traces the evolution of the house from the sixteenth to the early twentieth century across northern Europe and America, showing how the homes we know today bear only a faint resemblance to homes though history. (Book Description)