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### \*\*10. Does it remind you of another text or book you’ve read?\*\*

\*\*4 – Agree\*\*

Yes. It recalls \*\*Marilynne Robinson’s \_Home\_ and \_Gilead\_\*\*, \*\*Virginia Woolf’s meditative cadences\*\*, \*\*Tobias Wolff’s quiet emotional landscapes\*\*, and the familial observance found in \*\*Alice Munro\*\*. It also echoes the reflective quiet of \*\*Joyce’s “The Dead”\*\*, in tone and closure.

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### \*\*11. Would you like to read more texts like this?\*\*

\*\*5 – Totally agree\*\*

Absolutely. This story exemplifies emotionally intelligent, voice-driven fiction with existential weight. It would be beautifully at home in a cycle of interlinked stories or as part of a novel-in-fragments about origin, memory, and home.

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### \*\*12. Would you recommend it?\*\*

\*\*5 – Totally agree\*\*

Unequivocally. Especially to readers who appreciate \*\*literary fiction centered on family, legacy, and mortality\*\*, told with aesthetic control and pathos. Ideal for introspective literary readers who relish finely layered internal narratives rather than plot-heavy experiences.

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### \*\*13. Would you give it as a present?\*\*

\*\*4 – Agree\*\*

Yes—for the right audience. This is not a casual reader’s story, but for those who value \*\*emotional depth, graceful prose, and a contemplative tone\*\*, it would be impactful and memorable.

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### \*\*14. If the last answer was yes, to whom would you give it as a present?\*\*

To a \*\*writer\*\*, \*\*literature professor\*\*, or \*\*adult child caring for aging parents\*\*. Also perfect for \*\*grief counselors, hospice workers\*\*, or \*\*MFA students\*\* examining tone, restraint, and interiority in fiction. Anyone reflecting on family, time, or return would be moved.

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### \*\*15. Can you think of a specific publisher that you think would publish a text like this?\*\*

Yes.

- \*\*The Sun\*\*

- \*\*Ploughshares\*\*

- \*\*The Common\*\*

- \*\*The Kenyon Review\*\*

- \*\*ZYZZYVA\*\*

- \*\*Narrative Magazine\*\*

If expanded into a novella or novel:

- \*\*Graywolf Press\*\*, \*\*Coffee House Press\*\*, or \*\*Tin House Books\*\*—publishers that support quiet, meditative, character-driven work with emotional and stylistic polish.

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### Final Verdict:

\*\*“Returns”\*\* is a \*\*poetic, emotionally resonant short story\*\* marked by tenderness, narrative control, and lasting insight. It deserves placement in serious literary venues and would thrive among both literary readers and contemplative thinkers.