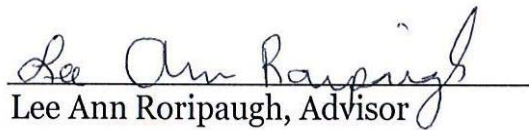


Abstract

The following manuscript comprises nine personal, reflective essays focusing on themes of home, belonging, and place. They represent the culmination of my work and study in the University of South Dakota's English Department's doctoral program. I chose an emphasis in creative writing, and specifically creative nonfiction, for my degree program. As a writer and broadcast journalist, I have often combined creative writing and reportage, and these essays are, for me, a natural extension of my previous work.

However, this collection also explores a new approach to storytelling for me, and an examination of my own life and thinking regarding the meaning and significance of home as both an abstract and literal concept. The style of these essays is a hybridization of essays of place and personal essays, something apart from memoir, and, while emphasizing geography, they are not limited to a single locale. Additionally, this collection explores how experiences within our lives are repeated and reflected over time, and the value of examining those intersections as a means of understanding ourselves and the broader world.

Approved by:


Lee Ann Roripaugh, Advisor