



# Home Sweet Home

*Candis Terry*

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*A shorter version of this story previously appeared in the For Love and Honor anthology*

*Before Candis Terry's wild Wilder brothers met their matches, a soldier gets a homecoming in Sweet, Texas*

*He's given up ...*

Army Ranger Lieutenant Aiden Marshall fought in some of the most hellish corners on earth and survived. Those closest to him, did not. When he returns home to Sweet, Texas, he believes he's broken and has lost everything—including his soul. The only fair thing he can do to the woman who's patiently waited for him to come home is tell her to move on with her life—without him.

*... but she never will*

Sassy waitress Paige Walker has no intention of walking away from the man of her dreams. He gave his all for his country and served with honor. Now it's time to pull him from the darkness and give him hope. With a heap of love, the help of the entire town, and a tail-wagging companion, Paige makes sure her hero knows there's no place like home sweet home.

## Home Sweet Home Details

Date : Published May 19th 2015 by Avon Impulse

ISBN :

Author : Candis Terry

Format : Kindle Edition 149 pages

Genre : Novella, Romance, Contemporary, Contemporary Romance

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# From Reader Review Home Sweet Home for online ebook

## Roberta Capizzi says

Another beautiful novella in the Sweet, Texas series by Candis Terry, for lovers of small town romance and military heroes.

I have only read one other book in this series, and I definitely need to find a little time to read all the other books, because I really love this little town called Sweet. Even though this book has been published later, it is actually set way before all the other books so I didn't have trouble following the story or getting hooked.

It is a beautiful romance between two childhood sweethearts who've been separated in the last few years because of the hero joining the army after 9/11. The story starts with the hero coming home, and I immediately loved Aiden. He's a broken man, just like every soldier coming home after having seen his best friends die, and he's on a mission of saying goodbye to the love of his life because he thinks she deserves more than the shell of the man who's come home from the Middle East.

The heroine, Paige, is fantastic. She's not exactly your typical damsel in distress; from the very first minute she sees Aiden, she makes it her mission to win him back, now that he's home for good. She's been waiting for him for a long time, and she's determined to not let his insecurities (and stubbornness) get in the way. She wants her man, and she's gonna get him: easy peasy! :)

I really liked the connection between them, the way they both have been faithful to each other even when he was thousands of miles away. All through the book, you feel the love burning between them even when Aiden tries to push Paige away, to let her get on with her life. I loved that she didn't get discouraged and fought for him, and I especially loved what she did (helped by the whole town) – I can't say what this is, as it would give away the ending and spoil it all, but I can say it was very sweet and extremely touching.

Despite the name of the town, expect some steam, 'cause when the two get together sparks fly!

If you're looking for a quick read filled with love, you should pick up this book.

\*\*\*I received a complimentary copy in exchange for an honest review\*\*\*

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## Alp says

If I could, I would give this novella 10 stars!

Home Sweet Home simply surpassed my expectations, and made a great impression on me. Although it was a very, very short story, it was full of love, hope, passion, and inspiration. The story was so beautiful and it truly touched my heart that Paige never gave up on Aiden. It didn't matter how the war had changed him, she loved him just as he was, flaws and all.

**"I love you, Aiden."**

**She slowly shook her head and held back the wash of tears that burned in her eyes. "You**

**may have given up on you. But I *never* will."**

And what Paige and the people of Sweet did for him in the end of the book totally broke me into tears!

I loved it!

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### **Laurie says**

~~ Intense and Heartwarming ~~

This novella packed quite a punch. The hero Aidan has PTSD from war and comes back to Paige in their hometown of Sweet, Idaho. It took no time at all to feel compassion and respect for Aidan when he came back to his hometown. Paige handled his fears and insecurities with kind and loving flare. I love the town of Sweet, too. They band together for the good. Home Sweet Home is a passionate and sweet story that will warm your heart.

~Laurie Kozlowski

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### **Melody May (What I'm Reading) says**

Posted on What I'm Reading

Home Sweet Home is a sweet story about a soldier coming home and deciding to break-off with the girl who has waited patiently for his return. I know that sounds so horrible when put in that context. However, Aiden came back from the war a changed man, and believe wasn't good enough for Paige. Now Paige is so happy to have him back and will do anything to prove that she will take him just the way he is.

I enjoyed this story, because you have Aiden who is dead set on letting Paige go even though he doesn't want to. Then you have Paige who wants to be with him and is willing to help him no matter what. I like this story, because you do have couples that are like this. One is left behind anxiously waiting for the others return to find another person in their stead, and they are trying to move forward from where they left off. However, you have one that has no desire to move together and believes they should part ways. Not an easy task when one feels like the other is making a mistake. So, I like Paige's persistence to show Aiden that she can help him. Sometimes that one person needs time and help to realize what they need is right in front of them.

Man I gave a wordy review saying I liked the story. It's a quick read about returning home change and making adjustment to civilian life. Any military personnel will come back from war a changed person, but what matters is what the love one is willing to do. It's not easy for either party, but if they are willing to work towards the same goal. Fortunately, for Aiden he has a stubborn gal in Paige.

Copy provided by Avon via Edelweiss.

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## Ami says

### 3.5 stars

It's a novella so it doesn't have the same depth as the novels. Plus Aidan frustrated the hell out of me -- and his reasons were so very cliché when it came to romance with themes like this one (war veteran with PTSD/emotional baggage).

BUT, Paige was a trooper of her own, I loved her determination. Added with two lovely dogs (even if they didn't get enough screen time), I found this prequel of *Sweet, Texas* series to be quite satisfactory. And I like that their story is now available as stand-alone format rather than part of an anthology.

PS: Per Candis Terry's website, all proceeds of this novella (it costs \$1.99) will be donated to Animal Rescue. Always a good cause to buy a story, right?

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## Anne says

### 4.5 Stars

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## Stephanie says

A novella to Ms. Terry's *Sweet, Texas* series, it lets us glimpse into the lives of two of *Sweet, Texas*' favorite citizens Lt. Aidan Marshall and Paige Walker. Aidan join the military after high school and Paige waited for him when he left, sending him care packages even when she often did not hear from him. Aidan has been put through hell and does not feel worthy of Paige and tries to break things off, not wanting her to suffer through his PTSD with him. The town rallies behind him, refusing to give up on him going so far as bringing home something he leaves behind in Afghanistan.

Even though this is such a short, sweet novella it does feel like a complete story. Most find they either enjoy novellas or simply find them too short and need more to them. This one seemed to strike a great balance of being just enough--not leaving me wanting or unfulfilled. Of course I could always want more but I am just like that. :) Seriously though, I appreciate that Ms. Terry gave us a bit of a background on Paige and Aidan, so we as readers knew where they were coming from before present day, but did not get so bogged down into that it took away from the present day. Overall it was a lovely story.

\*\*Please note, it was originally published in *For Love and Honor* anthology though this one has been expanded so even if you read it previously, you will find something new.

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## Kim says

Find this review and more at [kimberlyfaye reads](http://kimberlyfayereads.com) .

Home Sweet Home was a short, but sweet addition to Candis Terry's *Sweet, Texas* series. A novella about

one of Sweet's favorite couples – Paige and Aiden – it sucked me in from the start and made me wish it was even just a little longer.

This novella takes place immediately after Aiden returns from the Middle East. He's not in a great place, after losing his two best friends and having to leave his other comrade, one of the four-legged variety, behind. He's suffering PTSD and survivor's guilt. He loves Paige, but is now convinced he's not good enough for her and fears he and his problems will drag her down. Paige, on the other hand, is thrilled to have Aiden back and sure isn't going to let him go without a fight. It was a short story, but it felt complete. (Even if I greedily want more.) It was full of feels – and rather sexy.

I loved Paige and Aiden both. My heart broke for him and the things he had to go through. (Of course, I still kinda wanted to smack him for trying to push Paige away. I got it, but it was frustrating.) Paige was a strong, determined and thoughtful woman. It's not often the woman has a "grand gesture" in a book, but OMG, did she ever. It totally brought tears to my eyes.

Not only was Home Sweet Home a great romance, it was a good illustration of what makes small towns so special. I loved how the town rallied behind Paige to help thank Aiden for his sacrifice. It was really moving. A fantastic addition to the Sweet, Texas series, it could easily be read as a standalone as well. But, really, if you're not reading this series, you're missing out on some of my favorite contemporary romances.

*I received a copy of this book from the publisher, via Edelweiss, in exchange for an honest review.*

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### **Susan Gorman says**

Author Candis Terry has created a fabulous community in her Sweet Texas novels. Sweet is a small town filled with lots of real life drama, quirky and loveable characters, and sexy heroes and their heroines. The hero of Home Sweet Home is Army Ranger Lieutenant Aiden Marshall who has returned home to Texas a changed man. He has experienced first hand the nightmare of war, watched his two childhood friends die in an explosion and left his beloved dog in Afghanistan. Suffering from survivor's guilt, he is a man without hope.

Paige Walker has waited patiently for Aiden, her high school sweetheart, to return home. Ms Terry has created a strong, endearing heroine in this story. Paige knows what she wants. And that's Aiden. While Aiden has been serving in Afghanistan, Paige has started her own accounting business, bought a home and started an apple orchard. Paige steadfastly believes that she and Aiden can overcome anything. She believes in them. Paige understands that Aiden needs to come to terms with his many losses before he can move

I loved the chemistry between our hero and heroine and that they had been faithful to each other while Aiden served in the military. What they shared was special to both of them. Home Sweet Home is a compassionate powerful story of a couple finding their way home. I loved that the townspeople of Sweet were able to show their hometown hero how much his service in the Army meant to them. It was very heartwarming. The resolution was beautifully written-- just perfect for this couple and quite emotional.

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### **Veronica says**

I received a free copy of this book to read and review for Wicked Reads.

Paige and Aiden's romance is a sweet and fun story even though it has heavy subject matter at times. The couple have been love since they were young and while Aiden has been off serving his country, Paige has waited. When Aiden returns from war he wants to break things off, thinking Paige deserves more than he has to give.

Paige is a strong woman who doesn't take any of Aiden's crap and she doesn't give up. She knows she wants him and she goes after what she wants.

I really enjoyed spending time not only with Paige and Aiden, but with the whole town. The two little old ladies, Gladys and Arelene were a hoot.

This is a lovely story. It is part of Candis Terry's Sweet series but can be read as a standalone. I have read several of the stories in this series and they all great small town romance reads.

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### **Katie\_la\_geek says**

I have a soft spot for military romances. I tend to enjoy them more than other romance sub-genres so I was really looking forward to reading this novella. This is not the first time I've come across Candis Terry's work. A few years back I read *Anything but Sweet*, a full length novel by the author which I adored.

I liked *Anything but Sweet* because of its strong characters and Terry's sound writing and I ended up liking *Home Sweet Home* for exactly the same reasons.

I really like Candis Terry's style of writing. *Home Sweet Home* was easy to read but was not lacking in description or world building. It never felt rushed which is a rarity for a novella. Candis Terry structured the story perfectly giving the reader a full story without cramming too much into the short 144 pages.

In terms of story *Home Sweet Home* is nothing new. It is about a Army Ranger struggling to come to terms with all he has seen and dealt with at war, and the woman he left behind. Candis Terry manages to keep this from being repetitive with her writing and characters.

Aiden and Paige are enjoyable to read. Aiden is damaged, hurt and very unsure of what he wants. He is a really sweet guy with a heart of gold. Frankly he never stood a chance going up against Paige. Out of the two she has the most personality. This is a woman who knows what she wants and sets about getting it. She is fiery, open and patient with Aiden who is very much the softer of the two.

Together they are great, the chemistry between the two sizzles away. Sometimes books where the two main characters are already in a relationship with each other or have a history fall a little flat for me but Terry handles the romance well. This is a story about two people who are very much in love finding their way back to one another after war pulled them apart.

Home Sweet Home is a short, touching and sweet novella. I really enjoyed it and will definitely be reading more from Candis Terry in the future.

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### **Stacee says**

3.5 stars

I've only read a couple of books in this series, but I'm a sucker for stories with southern boys and snarky girls. This one had both.

Love love loved Paige. She's strong and knows exactly what she wants and how she's going to get it. Aiden is struggling, but you can definitely see that he's a great man. Their story has a lot of history and we get a compacted version; however, it works. It's just enough.

Overall, it was a quick read and a super cute story.

**\*\*Huge thanks to Avon Books and Edelweiss for providing the arcs in exchange for an honest review\*\***

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### **Mignon Mykel says**

4.5 / 5 stars

Received review copy in exchange for an honest review; original tour post can be found at:  
<http://mnonmklreviews.blogspot.com/20...>

I once to detested novellas. When I thought of them, I thought of Christmas time and that was the only time of the year they could and should be released. The problem, I learned over the past year, was simply the way the novellas were written. I great novella will still hit all my drivers when it comes to a well written book -- characterization, emotion, depth of plot... Most novellas, too, only take place over the span of a day. Forgive me for not believing that two people can fall in love that quickly.

Four days, 96 hours straight, while trapped in a car with bad guys chasing you? Sure. I can believe that. But it certainly needs to be more than 24 hours.

In the last year, though, I've managed to come across so many well written novellas that my problem with them just doesn't exist any more. Instead, I get excited when I open up the file and see it's a short book. Oooh, a ninety minute read! That's what goes through my head these days.

HOME SWEET HOME is a good novella. Not only do we get characterization, our characters have a past, were already in love to a degree... and Candis put in timeframe jumps that worked/didn't take away from the storyline.

This story is the beginning to Candis Terry's Sweet, Texas series; it is indeed a reissue, but word on the street says that the story has been filled out some. I never read the first publishing, so I couldn't tell you for sure or if the changes were necessary or not but I can tell you that it's cute, it's sweet, and you may just need to have



your tissue handy.

When Aiden left for the military, he was leaving behind his best friend and love, Paige. He never imagined she would wait for him. When he returns, he's battling an immense amount of survivors guilt, among other things, and doesn't feel right about keeping Paige away from a lifetime of happiness -- so he finds her to officially break up with her.

The thing is, these two are drawn to one another like moths to a flame. While reading their story, you see and feel the familiarity; you see and feel the love; you see and feel the understanding. You sense Aiden's apprehension to saying goodbye -- because he honestly loves her but feels that this is the best act he can do for her, so he's going to let her go. Likewise, Paige's love for him is just as strong. Not only did she wait for him -- without him asking -- she puts forth an effort to help make him whole again, regardless of the situation that life puts them in.

I very much enjoyed this early look in to Sweet, Texas. I've read book four and am 'touring' with five in a few weeks and I have to say, this is certainly a cute contemporary series that makes you wish that maybe, just maybe, this little piece of Texas could be visited.

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## **Jessica says**

I don't read many novellas because I end up feeling bereft when they're finished. I am always wanting more and don't feel I get enough time with the characters. However, I love Candis Terry's Sweet, Texas series and her novellas actually work really well for me. I have always wondered about Paige and Aiden, so it was nice to see these two getting together.

Aiden has just returned from being deployed in Afghanistan and he comes home bearing a pretty heavy dose of survivors' guilt. Having lost his best friends, he doesn't feel like he deserves happiness when they cannot experience any emotion ever again. He is a changed man and for that reason alone, he cannot be the man for Paige. Paige and Aiden have a history though, and she isn't going to let him go without a fight. I admire her for standing strong and knowing that Aiden just needs some convincing that his friends would want him to go on with his life and be happy. I'm glad for Paige's strength. She knows Aiden loves her, but is holding himself back, which is what makes his letting her go a bit easier to swallow. Still, I wanted to shake the man for being so silly!

This is a super quick read, so we only get to see a few of Sweet's famous townsfolk. However, the town steps up in a really big way for Aiden and even though I knew it was coming, the end completely melted my heart into a puddle of goo.

I loved Paige and Aiden's chemistry too. For such a short novella, there were some very sexy times between them and I totally loved those. I like that they already had a shared history of love together. It made the book that much sweeter for me.

\*Received a copy of this book via Edelweiss in exchange for a fair and honest review.\*

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## **Miriam says**

So... \*sigh\* Yeah...

I love this story. It's short, it's sweet, it's spicy. It's emotional.

Aiden's got so much going on in his head that's warring with his heart it's no wonder he's confused about what to do with his relationship with Paige. His love for her is undeniable; his guilt over losing his brothers at arms is unbearable. He's caught between living life to the fullest and simply existing. He's also missing his beloved Renegade, a dog he adopted while overseas that couldn't come home with him. It's easy to see why he was choosing to walk away from Paige instead of embracing her completely.

Paige wasn't a quitter. She'd waited for her Aiden to come home. He did but he wasn't the man who'd left her years before. No smiles, no laughter. He was a shell of a man who deserved so much more than what he'd resigned himself to. Her determination to show Aiden life was worth living for himself and to honor the memory of his fallen brothers made me smile, and I wanted her to succeed despite the odds.

It didn't take a village to bring Aiden and Paige together, attraction and love did that, but it took the entire town of Sweet to show Aiden how loved he was, that he was where he should be with the only woman he'd ever need. The townsfolk of Sweet didn't even hesitate to bring happiness back into Aiden's life when they agreed to help bring Renegade stateside. Can we all saw, "Aw!"?

Very few things in life are as healing as the love of a good man or woman. It reaches beneath the strong facade to the hurt below and slowly, methodically soothes it. That ache doesn't go away completely but it doesn't stifle the will to live either. Instead it gives the person a reason to continue on. Aiden did his late brothers in arms a huge honor by living a full life instead of half of one.

A beautiful short story about coming home and discovering that love, with the help of caring townsfolk, conquers all.

4.5\*

(Received from Edelweiss via Tasty Book Tours for an honest review)

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