

## ABSTRACT

### GOING HOME

The essays in this collection are all similar in how they came to be written. They began with questions I wanted to explore: How does the past shape the present? What is the legacy of a child who dies in infancy? Why do friends who care deeply for each other drift apart? What kind of person might I have become if I had not gone back to school after dropping out? How can I explain the complexity of love tangled with violence? And finally, where do I belong on this planet, and what will I leave behind? There are of course hundreds of possible answers to these questions, all of them correct. I know that if I wrote these essays all over again, starting with the same questions, I would arrive at different conclusions than the ones which appear on the following pages.

But what really unites these essays is that they are all about the search for belonging, a yearning for place and family that is more about the spirit than about geography. It is a search most of us have experienced, at one time or another, in one way or another, from the beginning.

Brigitte Bowers  
August 2008