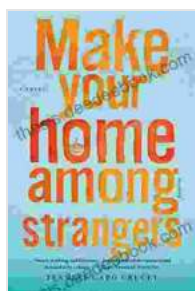


# Make Your Home Among Strangers: A Novel by Jennine Capó Crucet - A Captivating Journey of Identity, Belonging, and the Complexities of Family

Jennine Capó Crucet's debut novel, *Make Your Home Among Strangers*, is a poignant and deeply moving exploration of the complex intersections of race, culture, identity, and family dynamics. Set in contemporary Miami, the novel chronicles the journey of Lizet, a young Cuban-American woman grappling with her sense of belonging and the weight of her family's expectations.



## Make Your Home Among Strangers: A Novel by Casi McLean

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1285 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 397 pages



Through Lizet's introspective narrative, Crucet paints a vivid portrait of the challenges and joys of being a first-generation American, navigating the often-unseen fault lines of race and class in contemporary society. The novel offers a profound examination of the sacrifices and complexities that

come with familial love, and the ways in which we define ourselves in relation to our heritage.

## **Identity and Belonging: A Constant Struggle**

At the heart of *Make Your Home Among Strangers* is Lizet's ongoing struggle with her identity as a Cuban-American. Torn between the expectations of her traditional Cuban family and her own aspirations for a life beyond the tight-knit confines of her community, Lizet feels a sense of alienation and displacement.

Crucet deftly captures the nuanced experiences of first-generation Americans, who often find themselves caught between two worlds. Lizet's yearning for acceptance within both her American and Cuban identities is a poignant reminder of the complexities of belonging in a multicultural society.

## **Family Dynamics: Love, Sacrifice, and Expectation**

Family plays a central role in *Make Your Home Among Strangers*, and Crucet delves into the intricate dynamics that shape Lizet's relationships with her parents and siblings. The novel explores the complex bonds of love and duty, the sacrifices that family members make for each other, and the unspoken expectations that can weigh heavily on their hearts.

Lizet's parents, immigrants who have endured great hardships to provide a better life for their children, embody the sacrifices and resilience of first-generation Americans. Yet their love for their daughter is intertwined with a sense of duty and expectation that can be stifling for Lizet.

## **Self-Discovery and the Power of Choice**

As Lizet navigates the complexities of her identity and family relationships, she embarks on a journey of self-discovery. Crucet portrays the challenges and triumphs of Lizet's growth, as she learns to embrace her own desires and aspirations, even when they differ from those of her family.

Through Lizet's journey, the novel emphasizes the power of choice. While family expectations and societal norms can influence our paths, ultimately, it is up to each individual to define their own sense of self and carve out their own destiny.

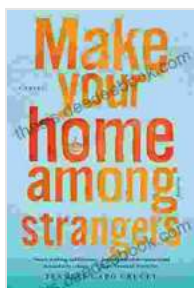
### **The Cuban-American Experience: A Unique Perspective**

*Make Your Home Among Strangers* is particularly significant for its portrayal of the Cuban-American experience, a perspective that is often underrepresented in American literature. Crucet, herself a Cuban-American, brings a deep understanding and authenticity to her depiction of the community's cultural traditions, values, and struggles.

The novel sheds light on the specific challenges and triumphs of Cuban-Americans, offering a nuanced exploration of their unique position within American society. Through Lizet's experiences, Crucet provides a valuable glimpse into the complexities of navigating both American and Cuban identities.

*Make Your Home Among Strangers* is a captivating and thought-provoking novel that stays with the reader long after the last page is turned. Jennine Capó Crucet has crafted a poignant and evocative story that explores the intricate themes of identity, belonging, family, and self-discovery. Through the journey of Lizet, the novel offers a profound meditation on the human

experience, reminding us of the complexities of our connections to others and the power of embracing our own individuality.



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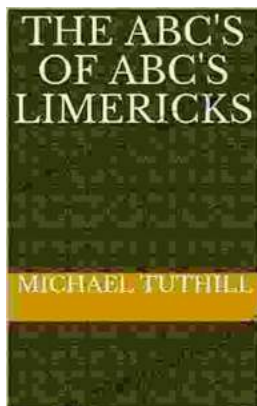
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