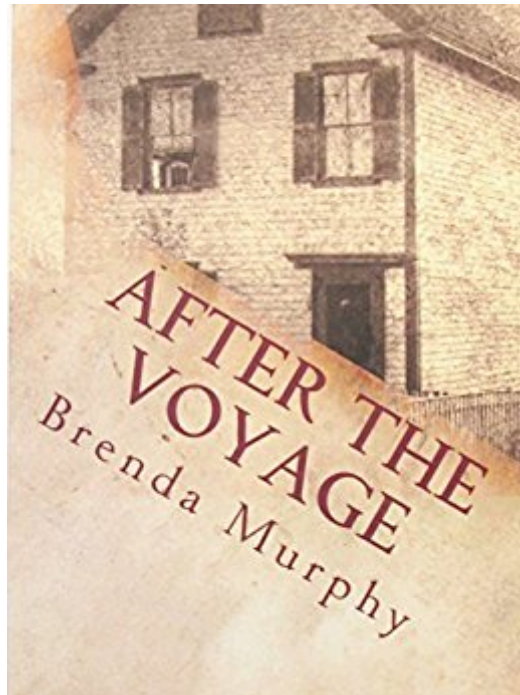


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After The Voyage: An Irish American Story



Synopsis

At the heart of *After the Voyage* is an American immigrant family making its way forward on a road that is sometimes rocky and steep. From different counties in Ireland, Maggie Qualter and Richard Terrett both sail to America as young adults in 1870 after surviving Ireland's Great Hunger as children. Maggie works as a maid for a wealthy family. Richard finds work in a tannery. After the death of the young wife he loves passionately, Richard marries Maggie with the help of a deceptive go-between who brews trouble in their marriage that never goes away. They raise three children in the midst of Irish American culture, the Catholic Church, and Richard's battles for the workingman in the Knights of Labor. Their daughter Mary dreams of being a nun, while Josie seeks the freedom of big-city life in Boston. Neither reckons on the future she will face, Mary as a wife and mother of nine children and Josie as a single working woman. Tom escapes factory life by joining the Navy, manages to see the world in the midst of two wars, and comes home to marry his sweetheart and start a new life. Their stories are both remarkable and familiar to everyone whose ancestors made their way to and in America. The events in the Terretts' lives are as they emerge from the public record. But their inner lives, their thoughts, their relationships, their words are imagined as a route to understanding these five complicated and fascinating people

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The writing is beautiful and the range of this book--from The Great Hunger through the Spanish-American War, the Great Depression, and World War Two--makes this a rich portrait of an Irish-American family struggling for survival and achieving remarkable success.

The lives of five family members told in separate parts yet woven together artfully with superb dialogue and historical background made for an engaging read. From the strained beginnings of a marriage starting off on the wrong foot, the interesting back-and-forth letters of a sailor at sea and the hardships/tragedies that befall those living in the early 1900s I was definitely taken in by the stories told. Photographs included added all the more to the book and was one I both enjoyed and would recommend!

Parts of this book deserve a 4 and other chapters a 1 or 2 stars. The story would catch my interest then the author would go on and on about a character's background which was not necessary to the story. She gave too much unneeded info. And some of it was pretty boring. I skipped over many a page. This would have been a good read if the author had done a bit more editing.

I was moved by several of the characters' stories in this book, particularly Josie's. They are both personal and historically important journeys told at just the right pacing between exposition, dialogue, and jumps in time. Enjoyable read for those who like historical fiction!

I enjoyed this book quite a bit. It was well written and I found it interesting how the author wove a story based on the actual public records of some of her ancestors. The account of the great hunger in Ireland that drove so many Irish to come to America was particularly interesting.

I like reading books about Irish families since I am of Irish descent. Have visited Ireland twice and actually taught at St. Charles in Woburn. I would recommend to my friends.

• enjoyed reading about this family even though it seemed to jump around between the various family members. The time lines were also somewhat disjointed. I had to work harder at

keeping the many family members straight than I've had to do while reading about other Irish-American families.

A look at life in the northeastern United States from the perspective of Irish immigrants. Politics, discrimination, love, war, family, religion and survival.

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