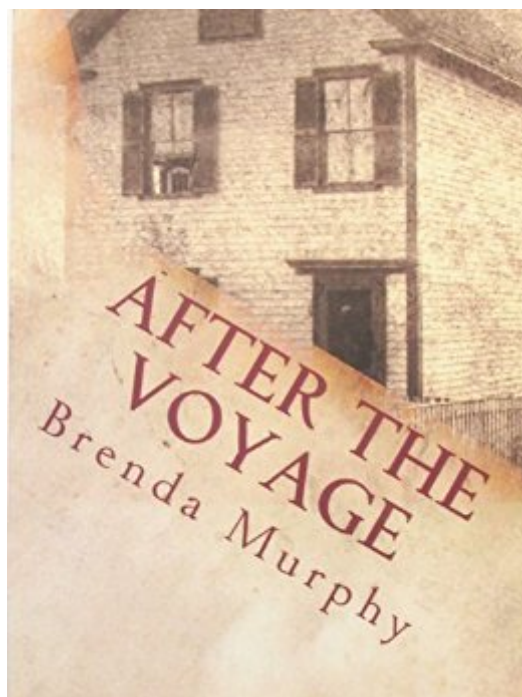


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After The Voyage: An Irish American Story



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.

I loved this book. I am also a self-proclaimed historical fiction junkie, and if you love historical fiction, you will really enjoy this book. It is a wonderful and in-depth look at intergenerational life among Irish American immigrants, and may be especially meaningful for individuals who are particularly interested in the immigrant or Irish American immigrant experience.

This novel is guaranteed to prompt a lively book club discussion. While it covers major historical events of the last century it does so through the portrait of several generations of one family resulting in a very intimate and moving read. I loved how cleverly the author weaved together each individual character's story. I was struck by the bravery and resilience of the first generation immigrants and moved by the struggles of their children. I highly recommend *After the Voyage*.

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.

Buy this for your Irish-American family and friends; buy this for your friends who are intrigued by tales of immigration; for those who want to hear tales of New England as it was a few generations ago; give this as a gift for those who love Masterpiece Theater and cross-generational sagas. Murphy's original, historically accurate, beautifully crafted book will delight a range of readers. Perfect for Mother's Day, for Father's Day --and as a celebration for the Fourth of July, since it is a profoundly American work, this book delivers on every level.

This was more of a history than a novel or entertaining story. Yes, it was in story form, but still it was a history of the author's family. Yes, it was interesting and informative, but not so much as entertainment. I read it, but I also found myself skimming more than I wanted or thought I should have to do. I can't actually recommend this as a novel or as an entertaining story. But as a history of

Irish immigrants to the USA, it's quite good. Looking back now, it seems as if I should have read it more carefully. But still, I read for entertainment, so....Patrick

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!

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