



NANCY: We chose this book for a calm, gentle read during the time of the pandemic and we could get it electronically on Hoopla while the library is closed. It fit the bill with a very believable cast of characters. A wonderful story blending Ireland of the past and present, while painting a portrait of a community building new possibilities in the modern era. I especially like the sense of place and culture revealed in her story telling.



KATHARINE: I enjoyed this book focusing on the civil war ear in Ireland in the 1920s. It puts a human face on what it was like for families. I 'm thinking it would be a good read for a European history class to get a sense of life in rural areas in Ireland through the years.



PRISCILLA: Wouldn't you like to visit Finfarran Peninsula, ladies? I'd like to visit Hanna's house and have lunch at the convent garden. I'd also like to see that ancient Psalter. It sounds like a wonderful vacation!



JANE: I loved the entrepreneurs in this book! The young women starting a little café, the man with the ecotours, those hoping to attract tourists. When there's a will there's a way. America was built on this ingenuity. Ireland, too, it seems!



MOLLY: I loved the organic community development in this book. Turning the old convent and Catholic school into a garden café and community center? Wonderful! People coming together to breathe new life into their town for tourists and themselves. Great story.



ABIGAIL: I love the Irish people's connection to the land. You could almost imagine sitting by the sea. Seamus and I are hoping to spend more time in Ireland after we get married. Who's Seamus? Ah, you'll have to read Nancy's book *Revelation in the Roots* to find out about us! And that isn't published yet!



SALLIE: In this book you see a lot of how parents affect their children, especially during divorce. You see Hanna trying to protect her daughter from the truth about her husband and his long term affair. Parents so want their children's lives to be unscathed from their own heartbreak, but that's rarely possible. Realistically written.



Discussion Guide

About the Book



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Questions for Discussion

1. What were your general impressions of this book?
2. The author paints pictures of Ireland with her words. What descriptions stand out for you? Have you been to Ireland? If so, did her descriptions resonate with what you saw there? Why or why not?
3. Hanna-Mariah the main character was a prim librarian who opened up during the course of the story. What kept her closed? What helped her open up? Are there ways you've been closed in your life? If so, have you also opened up? Why or why not?
4. One of the stories in this book included a sense of organic community and economic development. What caused these changes? Is that happening in your town? If so, compare and contrast to what happened in this book.
5. What was happening in the 1920s in Ireland? How does this history interweave with the story in the book?
6. Hanna-Mariah with help from Fury work to rehab an old house and make it into a cozy home for Hanna. Have you ever embarked in a project like this? If so, explain.
7. What were the themes in this book and how were they resolved?
8. Read over the MAMs comments on the book. Which of them do you most agree with and why?
9. In what ways, if any, will this book change your life or perspective?