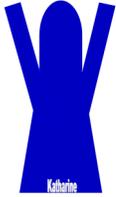




NANCY: This book developed from my spiritual practice over five years. I wanted to engage the Magnificent and Marvelous Book Club (the MAMs) in a trip to Ireland, after visiting the isle for my 30th wedding anniversary. I also wanted to continue their group home efforts begun in *Revelation at the Labyrinth*, while addressing racial and political divisions. A second trip to a peace center in Northern Ireland, helped me finish the story. I hope you'll enjoy the adventure and that it will inspire you to build bridges across racial and political divides.



KATHARINE: Thank you, Nancy, for taking us on another adventure. I enjoyed going back to Ireland and exploring the religious sites we visited at the monasteries, St. Brigid's Well, the Holy Well Retreat Center and the Shalem Centre for Peace. I'll remember this trip and listening to each other for a long time to come!



JANE: Well, I just want to commend Ireland on their work to make the country a great tourist destination. For such a small island, there's so much to see, and I enjoyed it all. From the beauty on the coasts at the Cliffs of Moher, the Dingle Peninsula, Cork harbor, the Wicklow mountains, and the Giant's Causeway; to the Blarney Castle, the Clonmacnoise and Glendalough monasteries and the Leprechaun Museum. We can learn from the Irish on how to treat visitors to a good time.



PRISCILLA: I loved Ireland. All the quaint little colorful houses, the many shades of green along the roadways, and the tourist attractions make it such a wonderful place to visit. I was especially surprised by what happened on the silent retreat. I think Welby and Reagan were really touched by God there. I'd never done a silent retreat before, but I'd like to do that again. So much fun exploring with the MAMs.



MOLLY: Who'da thought that Ireland could be all this? Just after I learn I've got Irish DNA mixed up with my African blood, I get to go explore the land of my green ancestors. A lot of fun, yes. And I'm so glad we took Welby along to explore his Irish roots. I think he learned a lot and has a new appreciation, not only for the Irish, but for himself as an Irish-African-American. Way to go, MAMs!



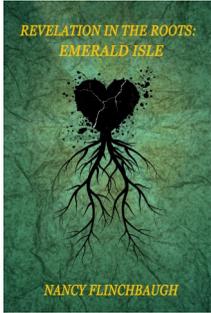
ABIGAIL: What a trip, ladies. I'm so glad we wrote that grant to take some of our group home members to Ireland. I thought I was crazy when the leprechaun started talking to me, but I'm glad he helped me decide to have listening circles. That brought us together. But of course, Seamus was my favorite part. So much more than I could have ever imagined.



SALLIE: I loved the Leprechaun Museum! Getting to hear the history of the leprechauns, walk into the land of make-believe and hear all those folk tales. A lot of fun for children and adults. And I especially loved the retreat at the Shalem Centre for Peace in Northern Ireland. I hope we can have more peacemaking retreats like that in the USA.



Discussion Guide



About the Book

Title: Revelation in the Roots: Emerald Isle

Author: Nancy Flinchbaugh

Published: All Things That Matter Press, 2022

Facebook: Nancy Flinchbaugh, Author — facebook.com/spiritualseedlings

Websites: nancyflinchbaugh.com, spiritualseedlings.com

Questions for Discussion

1. What were your general impressions of this book?
2. The book begins with a discussion between a leprechaun, St. Brigid and Grand MaMa. What did you think of these characters and their conversation?
3. Have you ever had a visit from someone who has passed on? Explain the visit.
4. Are there ancestors or other great people who inspire you in your life? Explain.
5. Which of the characters did you most like in this book and why?
6. Abigail organized listening circles during the trip to encourage the group to consider what they were learning, and to hear about others' experiences. How did this impact the group? Are you involved in any listening circles? If so, how do they impact you?
7. The group home characters, Reagan, Nikki, Welby and Charlie, all are in recovery for alcohol or drug problems. Do you think the trip impacted their recovery positively or negatively? Explain.
8. Reagan, a white nurse, went to rehab after being caught stealing opioids from the hospital for her drug habit. Welby, an African-American truck driver, went to prison for five years after drugs were discovered in his glove compartment on a routine traffic stop. Do you think this is fair? To what extent do you think the American justice system is unfair for people of color?
9. The MAMs Book Club, along with the others on the trip, included a wide spectrum of political beliefs, which sometimes made discussion without argument difficult. To what extent do you find this problem in your everyday life? When they listened to each other at the retreat at the Shalem Centre, how did that feel different? What more can we do about political differences in the USA?
10. Read over the MAMs comments on this book. With whom do you agree/disagree and why?
11. The group participated on a silent retreat in the book. Have you ever been on a silent retreat? If so, how did this compare to yours? Is a silent retreat something you'd like to try? Why or why not?
12. What would you say the message of this book is about our DNA as Americans?
13. Does this book motivate you to work to build bridges across cultures, differences and race? Why or why not? If you're motivated, what action would you like to take?

Read Nancy's blog on her website at spiritualseedlings.com, follow her at Nancy Flinchbaugh Author where you can join the MAMs Facebook Group and follow her Nancy Flinchbaugh YouTube channel to learn more about the story and issues in this book.