



Leaving Ireland

Ann Moore

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Many readers have already met, and embraced, Gracelin O'Malley. In this novel, they will follow her across the ocean to a new world....Hopeful for a better life for herself and her young daughter, Grace leaves behind her beloved Irish homeland and sails for America. But even as she tries to find her place in her new home, she cannot outrun the haunting choices of her past. Her infant son, too sick to make the crossing, remains in Ireland, and as the months pass, Grace becomes desperate for news. As she struggles to adapt to Manhattan and the harsh reality of immigrant life, she reunites with a man she once misjudged. With his help, Grace finds the courage to take a stand against the corruption and injustice around her-but her brave actions threaten the very people she swore to protect.

From the award-winning author of the acclaimed *Gracelin O'Malley* comes the breathtaking tale of a young mother's journey from her homeland to a new life in America.

Leaving Ireland Details

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Beverly says

Second book in a great series.

Lee Roversi says

the second in a trilogy and just as robust a read as the first. the characters continue to evolve and I continue to enjoy their intricate tales.

TJ says

An absolutely beautiful sequel to "Gracelin O'Malley". Although not quite as riveting as the first, "Leaving Ireland" takes us from the devastation that was Ireland during the 19th century and brings us to America via Liverpool. Reading about the plight of Irish immigrants forced into steerage on overcrowded, disease infested ships, to the slums of New York City is at times heart-wrenching yet amazingly encouraging as we see Grace and those she loves fight to overcome almost unbelievable odds, leaving the reader in awe of the strength of the human spirit and its ability to love and survive.

Ilaria says

"In quella città aveva anche compreso che le più alte conquiste dell'uomo erano sempre controbilanciate dalla profondità della sua degradazione."

Addio all'Irlanda è il secondo romanzo della trilogia di Ann Moore dedicata alla verde Irlanda. La storia riprende esattamente dove eravamo rimasti: Grace O'Malley, in fuga dopo aver sparato a una guardia nel tentativo di salvare la sua casa, sta per imbarcarsi per l'America con la figlia Mary Kate. Lì l'aspetta il fratello Sean e Grace spera di poter cominciare una nuova vita lasciandosi alle spalle i tanti momenti difficili passati. Ma l'America, l'ambita terra promessa, non è esattamente quello che si aspettava, è un paese difficile in cui essere immigrati irlandesi non è affatto facile.

Mentre il precedente romanzo era tutto ambientato nelle campagne irlandesi, stavolta l'autrice ci conduce insieme a Grace nell'affollata e rumorosa New York, la città delle promesse e del benessere, il luogo in cui ogni immigrato vorrebbe vivere. La vita in America però riserva tante amare sorprese a Grace; gli irlandesi sono trattati alla stregua di animali e non sono visti di buon occhio, a peggiorare la situazione c'è la preoccupazione per chi è rimasto indietro, in Irlanda dove imperversa una carestia che sembra non voler passare. Divisa tra passato e presente, tra il viscerale amore per la sua terra e per chi è rimasto lì e un nuovo sentimento che nasce in quella città così grande, Grace dovrà racimolare tutta la forza che le rimane per costruirsi una vita migliore.

Il precedente romanzo, Terra perduta, mi aveva totalmente ammaliato con una storia di rivincita, passione e grande coraggio. Anche Addio all'Irlanda mi è piaciuto ma in modo diverso, l'ho trovato molto meno poetico. I temi trattati cambiano, non siamo più in Irlanda, ci troviamo a New York, nella terra delle nuove

opportunità. La carestia e la questione irlandese vengono messe da parte a favore di altri temi quali la vita degli irlandesi in America, il loro viaggio della speranza, il fenomeno del razzismo e così via.

Lo stile dell'autrice è sempre molto intrigante e scorrevole, la narrazione ha un bel ritmo che rispecchia esattamente l'ambientazione caotica e affollata di New York. Il romanzo mi è piaciuto molto, l'ho trovato estremamente interessante e anche molto attuale rispetto ai temi che tratta. I personaggi sono ben caratterizzati e ognuno di loro è oggetto di una crescita psicologica molto equilibrata.

Credo però che il primo romanzo di questa trilogia sia finora il migliore, Addio all'Irlanda è un bel romanzo ma manca di pathos. Sono molto curiosa di scoprire cosa ha in serbo per noi l'autrice nell'ultimo romanzo e spero che non dovremmo aspettare troppo per leggerlo. Intanto vi consiglio i romanzi della Moore, specialmente se amate i romanzi storici!

Christine Cheripka says

I read this book in 2 days while sitting on a cruise ship.....It was a great realistic story of a young woman and her child during Ireland's dark days during famine and revolution. Grace leaves for America on a disease ridden ship and arrives in a country not much better then the one she left behind. A exciting story of survival and love ...

Dale says

I enjoyed reading this book for both the story line and, although historical fiction, it described Ireland and New York City during the 1800's. The Irish were fleeing Ireland for America while the British were hunting them down. The central character is a strong Irish widow who flees Ireland with one of her children, enduring the long and dangerous ship to New York. The historical details woven into the story touch on slavery, bigotry to the Irish and blacks, and the many new religions developing in America. I was a little disappointed in the ending, but I would not be surprised if there is not a sequel.

Alma Ramos-McDermott says

Grace, Liam and Mary Kate have left Ireland and arrived in Liverpool, securing passage on the Eliza J, bound for New York City. Despite having paid in advance for a first class cabin, they have been relegated to steerage and it doesn't take long to experience the horrors of sea travel, which was the lot of those trying to leave Ireland. Read the rest of the review on my blog: <http://shouldireaditornot.wordpress.c...>

Jessa says

The reason I'm only giving this a 4 is because I'm not really into Sean and his conversion (which I realize is unfair but it's how I feel) AND because I peeked ahead in the third book and spoiled a major thing that I'm already upset about, but which also colors how I feel about this book.

I lied, I just changed it to 5 stars, because Gracelin is essentially the idealized version of me that I daydream about.

I will never not associate the name Morgan with my first boyfriend and be really grumpy about it.

Charlotte says

I actually enjoyed this one more than the first. I read a lot of historical fiction about Ireland and part of why I liked this was because it expanded the Irish experience into America and the sea of immigrants that was NYC in the 1840s. Moore's description of the life of these brave immigrants as well as the heartbreaking description of slavery 20 years before the Civil War were extraordinarily well written. Very good trilogy!

Diane Heide says

I am really enjoying this series and am reading the trilogy back to back (just starting book 3). In addition to being a great story, I am shocked by some of the history of England's abuse of Ireland and the life of New York's immigrants. This story of Gracelin's fight to survive, protection of her family and romantic life make up a series of books that are hard to put down! I strongly recommend this series to fans of historical fiction.

Meagan says

Leaving Ireland is the sequel to Gracelin O'Malley and takes up where the first left off. The young widowed Gracelin and her daughter take a dangerous voyage across the Atlantic to America where they reunite with Gracelin's brother, Sean. This book deal a lot with the struggles of the early immigrants and the battles they had to overcome: poverty, prejudices and life in general. The family and friends left behind in Ireland still play a role in this book which I was happy about along with new characters, some who you will love and some new bad guys you will love to hate. This was another wonderful read that I highly recommend. I can't wait to read the third book in the series, 'Til Morning Light.

Karen says

This is the second in the Gracelin O'Malley trilogy. Takes Gracelin's story on voyage across the Atlantic to making a life in New York. Definitely looking forward to more of this story in the third book, 'Til Morning Light.

JudiAnne says

The second book in the Gracelin O' Malley 3 part saga continues with Gracelin killing a "Brit" and she and her daughter flee for their lives on a ship leaving for America. She leaves her newborn son with her father because she knows the voyage will surely be the death of him. The first part of the book is about the harrows of the voyage across the Atlantic. It is on this ship that she meets Captain Reinders who befriends her and helps her to survive the crossing. She also incurs the wrath of the steward of the ship because he hates the Irish and he considers her too brash for his taste. In addition, she makes an enemy of the ship's doctor when

she insists to the Captain there is no "doctoring" going on for the Irish. These three people are joined with her throughout the book.

Gracelin and her daughter finally make it ashore in New York and move in with her brother Sean, who left Ireland before her. Soon she finds that Sean has joined up with the Mormons and intends to follow Joseph Smith westward to Utah. He wants her to come with him but she is troubled by this turn of events.

The story is interesting and leaves me with a desire to finish the saga with "Til Morning Light.

Krystal says

I read the third book in the series in about a day because I couldn't wait to see how it ended. The author does a good job of not letting you know what's going to happen. There were a few things I was disappointed in, the main one being the character of Gracelin's brother Sean. I didn't think all the detailed description of his downfall was necessary and probably most of it was R rated. I think the author could have done something different with him that wasn't so depressing. I really did like the mystery of the house keeper and the doctor's sister, and thought that ended well. I also really liked the character of the doctor and how over time his opinions changed and he was able to see the right way of things. In all three books I think the author does a great job of bringing in lots of history. It was really cool to see how all the different historical aspects you learn about were all going on at roughly the same time. What a great that was to be alive!

Bill Currie says

After having my heart torn out by the first book of this series I find myself still weeping for this young lass, who now has been wed to a cruel Englishman and loved by an Irish Revolutionary. Gracelin's friends and family are scattered or dead leaving her with a young child to care for as she travels from Ireland to America in search of a brother.

It is her grit, her strength and her ingenuity that continues to lead her through one problem to the next. However she is determined, smart and cunning to know how best to travel along the path that has been laid open for her and her new family. America is not exactly how she expected it to be, since much of the old life and ways of Ireland have carried over to the New World. But like always Gracelin's understanding of her predicament and her ability to work hard when given the chance she begins a new life and new friends. However there is a shadow of her past that is hiding in this new city. One who is as ruthless and cruel as any man. And because of him her life will take another unexpected twist and a new journey.
