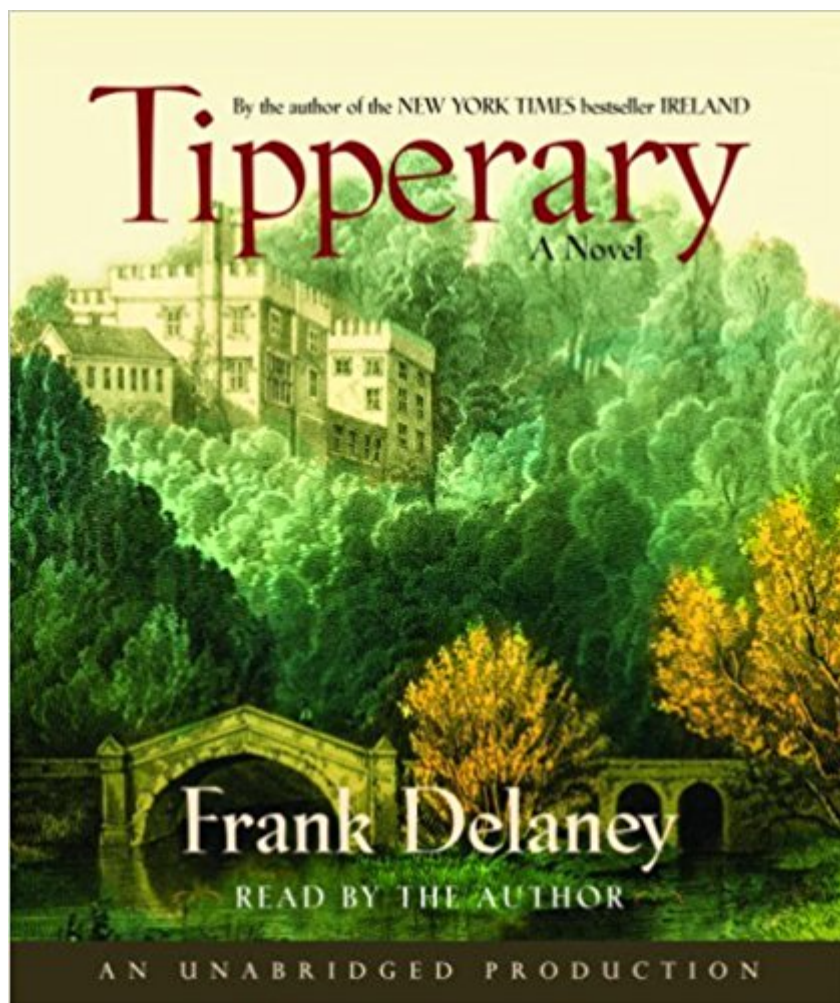


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Tipperary: A Novel Of Ireland



Synopsis

“My wooing began in passion, was defined by violence and circumscribed by land; all these elements molded my soul.” So writes Charles O’Brien, the unforgettable hero of bestselling author Frank Delaney’s extraordinary new novel—a sweeping epic of obsession, profound devotion, and compelling history involving a turbulent era that would shape modern Ireland. Born into a respected Irish-Anglo family in 1860, Charles loves his native land and its long-suffering but irrepressible people. As a healer, he travels the countryside dispensing traditional cures while soaking up stories and legends of bygone times and witnessing the painful, often violent birth of land-reform measures destined to lead to Irish independence. At the age of forty, summoned to Paris to treat his dying countryman—the infamous Oscar Wilde—Charles experiences the fateful moment of his life. In a chance encounter with a beautiful and determined young Englishwoman, eighteen-year-old April Burke, he is instantly and passionately smitten—but callously rejected. Vowing to improve himself, Charles returns to Ireland, where he undertakes the preservation of the great and abandoned estate of Tipperary, in whose shadow he has lived his whole life and which, he discovers, may belong to April and her father. As Charles pursues his obsession, he writes the “History” of his own life and country. While doing so, he meets the great figures of the day, including Charles Parnell, William Butler Yeats, and George Bernard Shaw. And he also falls victim to less well-known characters—who prove far more dangerous. Tipperary also features a second “historian”: a present-day commentator, a retired and obscure history teacher who suddenly discovers that he has much at stake in the telling of Charles’s story. In this gloriously absorbing and utterly satisfying novel, a man’s passion for the woman he loves is twinned with his country’s emergence as a nation. With storytelling as sweeping and dramatic as the land itself, myth, fact, and fiction are all woven together with the power of the great nineteenth-century novelists. Tipperary once again proves Frank Delaney’s unrivaled mastery at bringing Irish history to life. Praise for Frank Delaney’s TIPPERARY: “[T]he narrative moves swiftly and surely. A sort of Irish *Gone With the Wind*, marked by sly humor, historical awareness and plenty of staying power.” —Kirkus Reviews “[A]nother meticulously researched journey. Delaney’s careful scholarship and compelling storytelling bring it uniquely alive. Highly recommended.” —Library Journal (starred) “Sophisticated and creative.” —Booklist “Delaney’s confident storytelling and quirky characterizations enrich a fascinating and complex period of Irish history.”

Publishers Weekly – “Read just a few sentences of Frank Delaney’s writing and you’ll see why National Public Radio called him ‘the world’s most eloquent man.’” • Kirkus Reviews, “Big Book Guide 2007” • From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Seventy-five years after the death of Charles O’Brien, an Anglo-Irish itinerant healer and occasional journalist born in 1860, his memoir is discovered in a trunk. The result is this touching novel from Ireland author Delaney, in which the manuscript’s putative discoverer adds his own unreliable commentary to the fictive Charles’s probably embellished perceptions – making for a glowing composite of a volatile Ireland. Charles claims to treat Oscar Wilde on his deathbed; advise a young James Joyce (When you write... be sure to make it complicated. It will retain people’s attention); tell an appreciative Yeats the story of Finn MacCool; and inadvertently bring down Charles Stewart Parnell. He also meets the founders and leaders of Sinn Féin and the IRA, and will, as will Ireland itself, entwine his fate with theirs. And at 40, never-married Charles meets the love of his life, 18-year-old April Burke, an Englishwoman who repeatedly spurns him and exploits him, but who has a large role to play in his life. The narrator claims that his interest in Charles and April is academic, but he eventually confesses that he suspects their stories have some personal relationship to his own. Delaney’s confident storytelling and quirky characterizations enrich a fascinating and complex period of Irish history. (Nov.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable

edition of this title.

Frank Delaney is the author of the New York Times bestselling novel Ireland, as well as several fiction and nonfiction bestsellers in the United Kingdom. A former judge for the Booker Prize, Delaney enjoyed a prominent career in BBC broadcasting before becoming a full-time writer. Born in Tipperary, Ireland, he now lives in New York and Connecticut.

Another really good book from Frank Delaney altho his Ireland: A Novel is my favorite. Tipperary is written in a unique style, to me anyway: there is a narrator & commentator(s). Some said they found this confusing because of the frequent change in who is speaking but, in the hard cover there is a break in the text with 2 loops of a Celtic knot so even just looking at the page it is obvious something happens. After a few words it is easily realized. The only time I found this at all confusing was towards the end when another voice was added & for a few sentences one time I didn't realize whose it was but soon I did so there was no problem. I assume the paperback copies also have some break in the text. It took me a little while to get used to the flow of each person speaking but once I did I didn't mind it at all. Another criticism was that he was a "name dropper". Well, this is a novel about a specific time in Irish history so of course some important figures of the time would be mentioned. I found it amusing how the narrator stumbled upon & became involved with these folks. I highly recommend this book but suggest Ireland: A Novel be read 1st. Frank Rutherford is another really good writer but read the reviews carefully. It looks like there are 4 books about Ireland but there are really only 2. 2 are the same book published with a different title. If you love or at least are interested in Irish history & good stories, these 2 authors are a great place to start!! I have another Frank Delaney book on the way!!

Irish Rebellion was something I was well aware of having a First Generation Iris Dad. I tried to get thru this book, I really did. It got so bloody and crazy I had to stop. If you've a stronger constitution for Man's violence to Man over the Centuries, then this is your Book.

This is a fun and entertaining novel that depicts Ireland from about 1860 through the Irish revolution in 1916-1923. There are three narrators, which requires a little more effort from the reader to figure out who is talking. Frank Delaney is Irish and always delivers an exciting and interesting story.

As a grandson of County Tipperary ancestors, and a frequent visitor to Tipperary, it was interesting

and enjoyable and -- I'm not sure -- historically accurate. It was frustrating at times, however, as the narrative was provided by two or three or four characters and it was difficult to determine which of the characters was speaking (or writing). Eventually, it became obvious but it can be frustrating if a new train of thought was started and the reader had to struggle to realize who was speaking. This is probably a more serious problem if you are trying to read a little bit at a time before falling asleep. I was given the bound copy of the book (soft cover) but immediately looked to find it on Kindle. I was happy it was available. Much easier to read that way.

Irish and Enjoyable

This is a bit of a long winded approach to story telling, but he mixes in the history of the period in a fun way - meeting Oscar Wilde, Eamon DeValera and Michael Collins. Also, the book provides a perspective of the Anglo Irish and the threats they went through in their estates during this period of Troubles (1916 - 1926).

This book is Great! I became completely absorbed in it, feeling as if I were living it right alongside the characters! It recreated the world of late 19th century/early 20th century Ireland perfectly, I felt...and being as my ancestors immigrated from that country around that time period, I found it especially interesting. Its main character, Charles, is a folk healer who travels throughout the country and meets many interesting, and some historic, individuals...for example, Oscar Wilde. The Oscar Wilde segment was so well done that I found myself wanting to read Wilde's works, which I had never indulged in before. The long history of the almost-always unrequited love between Charles and April was poignant and beautifully expressed. You can't go wrong with this book! Buy it, enjoy it! It will keep you reading and reading until the last page, you will be so anxious to find out how the story turns out!

This is an unexpected treat, although not a great novel; the author makes one or two anachronistic errors but otherwise has done his homework. He similarly uses the device popularized by "The French Lieutenant's Woman" of personal involvement of the author, which is not in this case a bad thing (it ruined "The French Lieutenant's Woman" for me). It's an enjoyable read.

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