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Vanishing Ireland: Recollections Of Our Changing Times



Synopsis

In *Vanishing Ireland: Recollections of our Changing Times*, award-winning photographer James Fennell and bestselling author Turtle Bunbury once again journey the length and breadth of Ireland to bring us an extraordinary, powerful new collection of poignant interviews from ordinary men and women who share with us their memories, providing us with an invaluable link to the past. Through words and stunningly evocative photographs, we meet the people of Ireland who lived through adversity and hardship during the formative decades of independent Ireland, yet whose courage, kindness and humour remains intact. We talk with those who watched friends and family sail for foreign shores, and lose ourselves in a world where life was simpler, yet somehow happier; where storytelling, fiddle-playing, c  il  s and communal pastimes cemented the deep friendships that became the lifeblood of each community. As stories are shared beside the warmth of a fire in farmhouses in Kerry and Clare; in the turf sheds of Limerick and Tipperary; over cups of tea and glasses of whiskey in the kitchens of Wexford, Sligo and Dublin; in the cobbled yards of Wicklow and Tipperary; in the shadow of the hills of Leitrim and Donegal; on the pavements of Dublin City; and against the sound of crashing waves on the coast of Galway, we meet the people who have lived through times of change as the past comes alive through their words. Blacksmiths, saddlers, harness makers and coal miners, mattress makers, factory workers, bonesetters and cattle drivers, all are gathered here as we are afforded a glimpse of the inimitable spirit of the people of this country. The world continues to change but, gathered within these pages, are stories and to be cherished, to keep the past alive long into the future.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Vanishing Ireland is warm, funny, touching, and a bit sad as it relates the remarkable stories of the characters who were born in another era and have lived in a disappearing world. The stunning photographs and fascinating profiles combine to relate social history in a dignified manner. I heartily recommend it to anyone who has experienced the warm, vivacious and somewhat mischievous spirit of Ireland's elders.

My bandmates and I travel to Ireland every couple of years. We play Traditional Irish music and love visiting Ireland to soak in the culture and music. Our trips have been wonderful eye opening experiences and meeting people and hearing their stories is high on our list of things to do. There's nothing like visiting a local rural pub to play in a session and sitting down next to a complete stranger and finishing the evening with a new friend, or as is often the case, friends. Our last trip just this last April introduced us to Tomas O'Niallin and his family. They have a home they rent and when we chose the home through an internet site we only knew that it looked like a nice place and the price was reasonable. It turned out to be a hidden gem for us in that Tommy has played the music all his life and knew every musician in the area. He's also featured in the book "Vanishing Ireland: Recollections of Our Changing Times". He was very pleased to have been interviewed for the book, and proudly showed it to us. I asked if I could read it while we were with them and he kindly allowed me to. I enjoyed it so much that I pulled out my iPad and ordered it from while in Ireland, so I'd have it when I returned. The book is full of interviews with wonderful Irish characters, all older people who grew up in an Ireland quite different from the Ireland of today. The book is separated into four sections; Of Horses and Ponies, Of Music and Craft, Of Farms and Bogs, and Of Industry and Trade. Each section is full of interviews with people who worked in each area covered. The stories are grand, about a way of life that is disappearing with a vanishing generation. Time never allows a way of life to last forever, but having that way of life documented through the memories of those who lived it is better than having it disappear unremembered. I highly recommend this book too anyone who has visited Ireland or anyone who has wondered about the Emerald Isle and its people.

Vanishing Ireland: Recollections of our Changing Times is another lovely book by Turtle Bunbury with stunning portraits by James Fennell. These stories by our older citizens gives us a unique look

into how our forefathers lived in a completely different world to what we now know. It also gives great hope in these challenging times as we hear and read of how the previous generation coped with struggles and difficulties and still found time to laugh and have fun in their lives. No matter how hard things were for them they never gave up hope; faith in God was important to many of them. It would be my hope that their spirit and strength would be an inspiration to all of us as we face into different kind of challenges in this modern "techno" world. Congratulations to Turtle and James who have produced another treasure which we can pass on to our children also.

I love this book. It gives you a sweet glimpse of the old days of Ireland...the good and the bad. It is fascinating reading each one of the stories. Each person tells of a simpler, and yet harder life, punctuated with hard work, laughter and love of family, faith and country. I would recommend this book to anyone who has a bit of the "old sod" coursing through his veins.

As I looked through this wonderful collection of memories I was transported back to Sunday afternoons in the front parlor of my Grandparents Bronx home. Gathered together would be a mix of relatives, those who had ventured to these shores years past and then there would be the new arrivals fresh from the fields of Clare & Galway. The stories would flow, reminiscences of the loved ones left behind, tales from 'home'; the smallest details colorfully related and met with rapt attention. All this and more has been captured and bound between the covers of this magical compilation~ tales from home and ways slowly changing. Treat yourself to this journey through these simple lives & acknowledge this history~MAGIC!

Love this book. I am Irish and I want to learn as much as I can about my Irish heritage. This book gives real, honest to goodness stories that really happened. No holds barred.

Love the people they have chosen to interview, touching life stories. Well done . I have all four books in the series

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