



Evelyn: A True Story

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Desmond Doyle, 29 a painter and decorator, is married with six children and living in the infamous Fatima Mansions in Dublin in 1953. One day he comes home to find his wife has left him. He decides to go to England to find work and is advised to put his children into the state Industrial Schools system for a short time until he returns. When he returns he is told to his horror that the children have been consigned to the state until they are 16. This is the story of how Desmond Doyle fought the Irish legal system to change the law and win back his family. Told through the eyes of Evelyn, Desmond's nine-year-old daughter, this is a heartrending true story.

Evelyn: A True Story Details

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From Reader Review Evelyn: A True Story for online ebook

Vaso says

Την ιστορία μας αφηγείται η δια η βελυν, πως την ζησε εκείνη, τα αδρόφια της και ο πατρας της.
Πώσο λυπηρό εννοιο να κρίτος να σου στερεί το δικαίωμα να πρεις πώσω τα παιδιά σου και να τα μεγαλώσεις εσ;

Orla Hegarty says

The story not told here is the one about the woman in a loveless marriage who had 6 children in 7 years and had no other option but to abandon them. The father is held up as the hero in this poorly written book but he was the one with massive public and then constitutional support.

Despite this occurring 6 decades ago I feel that the situation is much the same. Women who want to leave loveless or abusive partners receive precious little public support and if they do leave, society and courtrooms favour the father if he chooses to go after custody.

Simone Ramone says

Having read both A Tree Grows in Brooklyn and Empty Cradles, this book made me yawn.

The first third is okay, but despite being quite a short book, it was padded out and repetitive.

The real story should have started when this book ended. How did they reintroduce 6 children, 1 with serious burns, after more than a year apart?

What happened when she visited her mother? How did the new "mammy" cope with the children?
Did they want to go back to the institutions?

But no, none of this was touched.

Glad I didn't buy it.

Marièle says

This could have been a good book, or at least an important book. Evelyn Doyle, who was a little girl in the 1950, is at the heart of a fierce custody battle between her hapless father and the Irish state. As a middle-aged woman, Ms Doyle decided to write down her memoirs. However, she decided to write them from the perspective of the child she was, and she maintains her perspective even when she writes about events she could not have been present at (her father's stay in England, or meetings with his lawyers), her perception of

her father's new girl-friend, and other key information.

Therefore, we only get a very limited story angle. We do not know what happened between her parents, or why her mother decided to abandon the family. Desmond Doyle is the hero of the book because he desperately wanted his children back, and went to great lengths to wrestle them from the hands of the unrelentingly conservative Irish Catholic law. But what events led his wife to elope and leave her six young children behind? Not one bit of information on that. It is only hinted that Desmond might have had a temper, and liked to spend an unwise amount of hours at the pub. A balanced presentation of the parents' points of view would have been much appreciated.

Naturally, we don't get to hear Evelyn's brothers' story, because the kids were separated. However, Evelyn seems to be rather content and settled in at the industrial school, where the nuns seem to take good care of her. Much to my surprise, because these institutions have reaped a reputation for neglect and abuse, of which not a word is mentioned. Good for Evelyn, of course, but this is contrary to popular belief and therefore confusing for the reader.

Overall, the book is poorly written and leaves you wanting for more information. Perhaps it would be worthwhile to read the sequel, but I am not sure if I will. Does the writing improve?

George Petrellis says

?να βιβλ?ο που θα μπορο?σε να ε?ναι πολ? καλ? αλλ? τελικ? δεν προσφ?ρει και πολλ??.
?ταν το αγ?ρασα και ξεκ?νησα την αν?γνωση του, ν?μιζα ?τι αφηγητ?ς θα ?ταν ο πατ?ρας. Τελικ?
αποδε?χθηκε ?τι η ?βελυν, το μεγαλ?τερο απ? τα παιδι??. Θα ε?χε αυτ? τον ρ?λο. Αν και αρχικ? με
ξ?νισε καθ?ς η αφ?γηση ?ταν πολ? παιδικ?, καμ?α σοβαρ? περιγραφ? και τα συναισθ?ματα καθ?ς
και οι σκ?ψεις που αποτυπ?νονταν ?ταν συγκεχυμ?να, καθ?ς προχωρο?σε η υπ?θεση το συν?θισα
και τελικ? μου ?ρεσε. ?ταν μια τελε?ως διαφορετικ? ματι? στην υπ?θεση. Παρ?λα αυτ? σ?ντομα η
αφ?γηση αλλ?ζει οπτικ? γων?α και παρ?λο που η ?βελυν ε?ναι αυτ? που αφηγε?ται, περιγρ?φει
καταστ?σεις απ? τις οπο?ες απουσι?ζει: " ο μπαμπ?ς π?γε στο δικηγ?ρο/ γ?ρισε στο σπ?τι
αφηνιασμ?νος και μ?νο η Τζ?σι ?ταν εκε?" Π?ρα πολ? κακ? η συγγραφ? του βιβλ?ου. Επ?σης,
υπ?ρχουν και πολλ?ς ?στοχες παρατηρ?σεις ?πως : "μετ? απ? εκε?νη την στιγμ? ποτ? δεν ε?δα τον
μπαμπ? να κλα?ει ξαν? " εν? μετ? απ? 5 σελ?δες διαβ?ζουμε "τον ε?δα να γυρ?ζει απ? την ?λλη
πλευρ? για να κρ?ψει ?τι ?κλαιγε". Υπ?ρχουν ?μως και καλ?ς στιγμ?ς στο βιβλ?ο που
παρουσι?ζονται η αγων?α, η σ?γχυση, οι σκ?ψεις αλλ? και οι πραγματικ?ς σκ?ψεις εν?ς κοριτσιο?
που ζει σε ?να β?αιο περιβ?λλον καταπ?εστης και εξαθ?λ?ωσης απ? την μ?α και ?ντονου
θρησκευτικο? πνε?ματος απ? την ?λλη.
Η πλοκ? ?μως και τα γεγον?τα που παρουσι?ζονται παρουσι?ζουν ιδια?τερο ενδιαφ?ρον. Βλ?πουμε
απ? τη μ?α την ?λλειψη αναγν?ρισης δικαιωμ?των στις μονογονικ?ς οικογ?νειες, την αισχρ??
οικονομικ? κατ?σταση της Ιρλανδ?ας μετ? τον δε?τερο παγκ?σμιο π?λεμο, τη δι?δοση των
σχολε?ων εργασ?ας καθ?ς και την κυριαρχ?α του καθολιτικισμο? στην Ιρλανδ?α αλλ? και την
αμοιβα?α αντιπ?θεια των Ιρλανδ?v με τους ?γγλους.
?σων αφορ? την πλοκ?, η ?βελυν ε?ναι η μεγαλ?τερη απ? τα 6 παιδι? μιας φτωχ?ς οικογ?νειας
εργατ?v στην Ιρλανδ?α που ζουν σε ?να διαμ?ρισμα εργατικ?v πολυκατοικι?ν. Η ιστορ?α ξεκιν?ει
?ταν ο πατ?ρας της ?χει ?να ατ?χημα και αναγκ?ζεται να παραμε?νει στο νοσοκομε?ο για ?να
μεγ?λο δι?στημα αφ?νοντας την οικογ?νεια χωρ?ς καν?να εισ?δημα. Βλ?πουμε τα παιδι? να
ζητιανε?ουν για μερικ?ς κο?τες απ? το τοπικ? παντοπωλε?ο και να τρ?νε τις σταφ?δες που ?χουν
με?νει μ?σα. Πραγματικ? θλιβερ?ς καταστ?σεις. Η μητ?ρα της οικογ?νειας δυστυχισμ?νη στο γ?μο

της συν?πτει παρ?νομο δεσμ? με τον ξ?δερφο του συζ?γου της και παρακολουθο?με τις επιδρ?σεις που ?χει αυτ? η κατ?σταση στην οικογ?νεια αλλ? και την αντιμετ?πιση της κοινων?ας. Συχν? η μητ?ρα λε?πει και η ?βελυν αναγκ?ζεται να αναλ?βει την επ?βλεψη των μικρ?τερων αδερφ?ν της με αποτ?λεσμα πολλ? τραγικ? ατυχ?ματα. ?ταν η μητ?ρα της εν τ?λει εγκαταλε?πει την οικογ?νεια ο πατ?ρας λ?γω οικονομικ?ς αδυναμ?ας να συντηρ?σει την οικογ?νεια του, παραδ?δει προσωριν? τα παιδι? του στην προστασ?α του κρ?τους. Τα παιδι? τοποθετο?νται σε σχολε?α εργασ?ας, δηλαδ? μον?ς στις οπο?ες τα παιδι? συμμετ?χουν στις δουλει?ς συντ?ρησης τους. Δεν ε?ναι τ?σο τραγικ? ?σο ακο?γεται, τουλ?χιστον σ?μφωνα με τα λεγ?μενα της ηρω?δας. ?ταν ο πατ?ρας καταφ?ρνει να ορθοποδ?σει και βρ?σκει μια καινο?ρια σ?ντροφο την οπο?α εμφαν?ζει ως οικον?μο λ?γω της συντηρητικ?ς κοινων?ας και διεκδικε? τα παιδι? του π?σω σκοντ?φτει στο νομικ? πλα?σιο που απαιτε? και τη σ?μφωνη υπογραφ? της εξαφανισμ?νης ?μως μητ?ρας. Εκε? ξεκιν?ει μια δικαστικ? διαμ?χη δι?ρκειας εν?ς χρ?νου με αμφ?βιολο το αποτ?λεσμα. Θεωρ? ?τι η συγγραφ?ας, που ε?ναι η ?δια ? ?βελυν της ιστορ?ας, αντ? να μας δ?σει τις αναμν?σεις της, τις εντυπ?σεις της αλλ? και ?σως τη συν?χεια της ιστορ?ας με μεγαλ?τερη εν?ργεια κατ?ληξε να αναλ?νεται στην αναφορ? ποι?ν ?ρθρων να χρησιμοποιο?σε η δικηγορικ? ομ?δα του πατ?ρα της. Κρ?μα.

Rebecca Huston says

A very good memoir about childhood in Ireland and a father's love. Turned into the film "Evelyn".

For the complete review, please go here:

http://www.epinions.com/content_98112...

Linda says

Loved the book and loved the movie!!

Kate says

The book of course was much better than the movie. It's an interesting view into another culture. And as government geek the law that kept Evelyn away from her family and the legal story interested me.

Chloe says

Ms. Doyle is an excellent writer. Her memoir is both heartwarming and heartrending, relating information about the landmark court case regarding her custody without losing the reader in dry details. It provides a glimpse into Irish Catholic life in the late 1950s, telling about Ms. Doyle's experience in the convent as much as her father's experience in court. Additionally, I've often found that nonfiction doesn't do its "characters" justice. That is not the case here. Tea and Green Ribbons is worth the read solely for the lively descriptions Ms. Doyle provides of key players in her life at the time. (Note: There's quite a bit of vulgar language

throughout, as well as mature themes, so I probably wouldn't recommend to anyone under 18ish.)

Cathy says

Very touching and quite emotional at times

Leslee says

This was a great story of a fathers dedication to his children. This book left me wanting to know more. There was a lot of irish curse words which I didn't care for, but other than that I thought it was a great book.

Vicki says

While this might not be the best written memoir ever, I thought that it was good. The story was interesting and moved along fairly quickly. I appreciated that she didn't feel the need to go on and tell all about the rest of her life. The story ended where it should have ended. Inspiring story.

Bev Walkling says

I found this an interesting book told from the perspective of Evelyn as a child but it left me wondering how things turned out for Evelyn ultimately and whether she was happy with the end result.

I read the book with this cover picture, but not a german? copy.

Vickie Dee says

I knew very little about the events surrounding this trial of a poor Irish father fighting for custody of his children against the Catholic Church and Irish courts in the 1950s. I found it to be a well written account, seen from the view of the oldest daughter in the family. It was inspirational to see that this poor working man didn't give up the fight to get his children in spite of the odds he faced on so many fronts.

James Leahy says

Great book about a fathers fight for justice.
