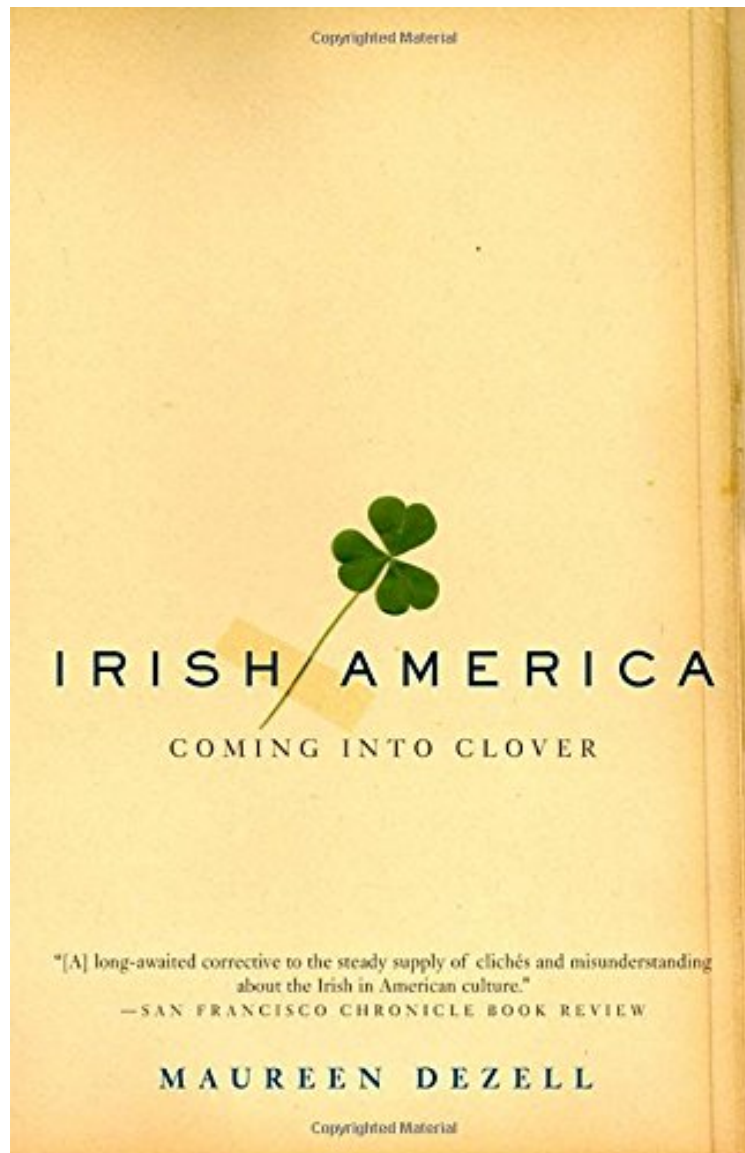


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Irish America: Coming Into Clover

Maureen Dezell

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Maureen Dezell : Irish America: Coming Into Clover before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Irish America: Coming Into Clover:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. True History of Irish Emigrants Over the YearsBy Ct JaybirdThis book gives a good sense of the history of the Irish in the US. Some friends of mine have given the book to their grown children saying this shows what it was like (your history). On the East Coast we feel this is our history but she shows places like Butte, MT had a higher % of Irish. Even if the book is just picked up from time to time it is worth it

for any one interested in the Irish American Experience² of 2 people found the following review helpful. Know your culture
By Customer
A book I have devoured and given many times as a gift. Just because you're Irish-American doesn't mean you understand your culture. This book gave me many lightbulb moments as I saw friends and family in light of our culture instead of merely quirky individuals. The distinctions between Irish and Irish-Americans and East Coast vs Midwestern Irish-Americans were also eye-openers. And it is useful to rise above the stereotypes of Irish-Americans as drinkers and brawlers to see their role in creating and maintaining an amazing array of Catholic institutions.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By D. Filteaugreat

Old-time politics, piety, and St. Patrick's Day parades loom large when the Irish come to the American mind. None truly represents the complex legacy or contributions of the nation's oldest ethnic group, who rank among the most highly educated and affluent Americans today. In *Irish America*, Maureen Dezell takes a new and invigorating look at Americans of Irish Catholic ancestry who they are, and how they got that way. A welcome antidote to so many standard-issue, sentimental representations of the Irish in the United States, *Irish America* focuses on popular culture as well as politics; the Irish in the Midwest and West as well as the East; the new Irish immigrants; the complicated role of the Church today; and the unheralded heritage of Irish American women. Deftly weaving history, reporting, and the observations of more than 100 men and women of Irish descent on both sides of the Atlantic, Dezell presents an insightful and highly readable portrait of a people and a culture.

From *Publishers Weekly*
Those who harbor the desire to burn their auntie's lace curtains, secretly loathe Riverdance or relish the newfound clout of all things Irish will appreciate this unflinching look at the 20 million or so Irish Catholics in the U.S. Beginning with the potato famine of the 1840s and exploring the repercussions of the Irish Catholic diaspora in America, *Boston Globe* staff writer Dezell concludes that Irish Americans flourish on contradictions. She first examines the phenomenon of "Eiresatz: a sentimental slur of imagined memories, fine feeling, and faux Irish talismans and traditions" that includes everything from the stock Irishman of the stage ("Sambo with a shillelagh") and the beer companies' preoccupation with drunken Irishmen to the Ancient Order of Hibernians, an all-male society that bans gays and lesbians from the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City. Dezell voices contempt for the Father O'Malleys and Flanagans of Hollywood, admiringly recounts the adventures of the San Patricios--the Irish battalion that deserted the American army during the Mexican War to fight on the side of Mexican Catholics--and examines what she casts as the hypocrisy of the Catholic Church. She observes the evolution of the American Irish into "CWASPs"--"Catholic--or Celtic--White Anglo-Saxon Protestants"--and traces Irish feminism from the IRA's women's auxiliary, Cumann na mBam, to Mother Jones, Margaret Sanger and Dorothy Day. Dezell also investigates the prevalence of alcoholism among the Irish, and their often combative relationship with African-Americans. Astutely deconstructing images and experiences of the Irish in this country, Dezell will have readers shaking their heads in dismay one moment and laughing uncontrollably the next. Agent, John Taylor Williams. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.
From *Library Journal*
While a sharper title for her book might have been "Catholicism in Irish Americans," Dezell (*Boston Globe*) has interviewed a variety of Irish Americans to document cultural changes. She is reporting, and since Irish American behavior varies, the report wanders. Dezell notes that adherence to Catholicism is waning, but its virtues, notably charity, remain. Irish Americans seek upward mobility while struggling with a streak of modesty that the author sees as uniquely Irish. Finally, those generations most removed from Ireland are now seeking out faux Irish culture, "multiculti fuzziness" like Riverdance and the music of Enya. Thus, behavior is perpetuated even if its origin is forgotten. Reading like a collection of columns, Dezell's narrative employs hooks and melodrama that entertain the reader but undermine her authority. Ultimately, though, the book is entertaining and at times insightful, making it a viable choice for public libraries in Irish American enclaves. Robert Moore, Southboro, MA Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.
From *Booklist*
Boston Globe reporter Dezell packs a wealth of information about and analysis of the Catholic Irish in America into a relatively short book. Comparing America's Irish and the homegrown variety, Dezell tackles eight broad topics: the Irish American image, the Irish diaspora during the great mid-nineteenth-century famine, the jestingly named CWASP (Catholic or Celtic White Anglo-Saxon Protestant), Irish matriarchy and feminism, the Irish and alcohol, the Irish disposition to public service, Irish Catholicism, and the "New Irish" birthed by economic and pop-cultural globalism. Revelations abound, such as the fact that Irish Americans suffer from alcoholism far more than the Irish of Eire; that there are nearly as many former as active nuns in the U.S. today; and that Jack Kennedy, that exemplary Irish public servant, once said that politics beat the hell out of chasing a dollar like his old man did. Other topics, such as Irish sentimentality and the shame-filled anger it disguises, recur throughout the book. A superb example of popular ethnic studies. Ray Olson
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