



Fields of Home

Marita Conlon-McKenna , Donald Teskey (Illustrator) , P.J. Lynch (Illustrator)

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The final book in the Children of the Famine trilogy, set during the Irish famine. Michael is a stable-boy at the Big House, learning about horses, while Eily struggles to survive in her cottage on a scrap of land and Peggy still works in America. Will Michael forget his past and his sisters?

Fields of Home Details

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From Reader Review Fields of Home for online ebook

Homeschoolmama says

The 3rd and last book of The Children of the Famine series, this story was, not surprisingly, well written, interesting and quick to read. It's fun to see how the cast of characters you're introduced to in a previous book grow up and find happiness.

Joy says

The final book in the Children of the Famine trilogy shows the lives of the now adult O'Driscoll siblings. They all have their own hopes and fears for the future and it is a fitting ending to the trilogy.

Lorna says

I wish these books were movies, all the dramatic scenes in this book I just kept thinking how great they would all look on the big screen.

This book made me so happy and proud to be Irish. I was so glad to be able to read about all three of the O'Driscoll children. This book made me bawl and laugh and giggle because it was so cute.

Such a great series, so much happened in this book it was fantastic. So so so good and action filled.

So glad I finally read this book and this series. The series got better with every book, which is so rare. It definitely finished on a high. The last chapter is so beautiful and simple but poignant and so important to Irish history. This book puts real people to the things I learned about in history class, allowing me to fully step into their shoes and imagine how hard times were.

10/10 would recommend everyone to read this series!

Fateme.H says

Elizabeth says

This is the final book in the "Children of the Famine" trilogy. This book concentrates for the most part on Eily and Michael although we do learn a little bit more about Peggy and her move westward across America.

Michael has found that he has a talent with horses and he landed a very good job taking care of them until (due to political turmoil) the barn and home of the estate owners where he lived and worked were burned to the ground. Eily and her husband and children are having their share of troubles because they cannot make the rent to their estate owners. Everything is cleared up at the end due to forbearance and faith and family resolve. I was so glad that I read these books. Thanks to Ann Ogelsby for giving them to me on my trip to Ireland. (6.2013)

Kazzie Athena says

This was most certainly my favourite from the Children of the Famine trilogy. I honestly think that Fields of Home could have easily have been a full length novel. There was so much that could have been explored and expanded upon. The ending was merely a beginning.

What I loved about this series and Conlon-McKenna's writing is that the story gives you everything that you need to know without over-furnishing. My imagination easily filled in the blanks and I was more than satisfied with what the text gave me.

Fields of Home struck the perfect balance between Eily, Michael and Peggy and their storylines. Even though Peggy isn't featured as much, it's still the perfect amount. I loved reading this trilogy again after so many years.

Kellyn says

Ireland in the mid-1800s continues to experience the effects of the Great famine. Eily and her husband work the land belonging to the landowner, Mr. Ormonde, trying to feed their family and pay the ever-increasing rent. Eily's sister, Peggy, fled Ireland and now works in Boston. Their brother Michael, unexpectedly loses his job as a stable assistant.

Colon-McKenna powerfully conveys the struggles of working families and the impact of class systems in both Ireland and the US.

Trisha Harrington says

The finale of the trilogy. It was an amazing time in my childhood and I cherish these books.

Go read this series!

Heather says

This was the final book in the "Children of the Famine" trilogy, and what a delightful historical series it was. I have loved watching Eily, Michael and Peggy grow from hungry children to young adults struggling to

make ends meet.

At first I didn't think I would enjoy "Fields of Home" as much as the first two books as it jumped between Michael, Peggy and Mary Brigid, Eily's young daughter, but the dramas they all faced soon won me over. I did find Michael's story, by far, the most interesting as he worked with the horses he loved.

The book ended satisfactorily, especially for young readers, thanks to Eily, Michael and Peggy's hard work, perseverance and strong family ties.

Danielle Wrasman says

A historical fiction novel, this is the third in a trilogy called Children of the Famine written in Ireland about the Irish Potato Famine. The first two books are called Under the Hawthorne Tree (1990) and Wildflower Girl (1991). In this story, the characters are older and struggling to make ends meet after the famine is over. The perspective this trilogy adds is that it is actually written in Ireland. It also goes into depth about the day to day struggles that people have during the Irish Potato Famine instead of just the surface historical facts that may be found in other books. For the text-set, this book also adds a book that could allow a higher level reader to go more in depth on the topic. Part of the book is also about some of the characters who have moved to America, so it includes in-depth details of the hardships for Irish immigrants in America as well. This book also talks about the struggle for land after the famine.

Sinéad O'Neill says

A beautiful way to end this trilogy. It was a story with family. If you haven't read my Wildflower Girl review, go read it. **READ THIS TRILOGY IT WAS AMAZING!!**

Aoife says

Read by Caroline Lennon

Book: 4.5/5 stars

Narration: 5/5 stars

Fields of Home is the last book in the Under the Hawthorn Trilogy and the children from the original novel are now all grown up. Peggy is still making her way as a housemaid in America but is starting to think more about her long-term future, Michael is content in the 'Big House' working with the horses but soon a tragedy will tear his plans to pieces, and Eily is now a mother of two and worrying about raising rent prices and being able to keep a roof over her family's heads and food on the table.

As usual, this was a really well-told book about points in Irish history that is so accessible to children but a really worthwhile read for adults as well. I loved the different world views in this book from each member of the family, as they are all in such different places in their lives but all struggling in one way or another.

I have a massive soft spot for Peggy, and I had forgotten what became of her as it's been a very long time

since I read this book but I loved being reminded of her happy ending, which is one of the best things about this trilogy - because it's aimed at kids, the endings are normally wrapped up really well and happy.

I loved Michael with the horses and I did enjoy seeing the relationship the English landlord had with his staff, and that it was a good one. It's good to show that not every landlord was a bad one, and some were decent to their tenants and staff but sometimes history and bad memories still ended up punishing them.

Eily's was probably the story that was most focused on actual historic happenings, and I feel like her despair and panic were really portrayed well in this book about their rent being raised and getting evicted (I do think, for me, she became a bit hysterical at times and it annoyed me because she had been so strong in Under the Hawthorn Tree and I didn't like seeing her so over the top).

I really enjoyed listening to these on audiobook and really recommend Caroline Lennon as a narrator as she did an excellent job.

Aine McCarthy says

This is the final book in the 'Children of the Famine' series by Marita Conlon-McKenna. It is a heartfelt Irish historical novel which continues the story of Eily, Michael and Peggy who are now grown-up and struggling to make ends meet in the post-famine years. Peggy is still working as a kitchen maid in Boston, Michael is a young jockey and stable-hand who runs the stables of an English landlord and Eily, married with two children struggles to pay the rent on the small holding that her husband John farms. The economic situation at the time is grim and there is talk of forthcoming trouble in the air. Many unhappy tenants wish to rise against extortionist rents being imposed by cretinous and greedy landlords. Evictions are rife and Eily and her brood fear for their future when they receive notice that their rent has been doubled. Michael also falls upon hard times when his boss' estate is set alight by revengeful tenants and he is left homeless and jobless. Peggy's life in America is simultaneously going through change; many of her friends are leaving Boston in search of their fortune and she once again finds herself alone and missing Ireland. The book expertly captures the feelings in the hearts and minds of the central characters and the author's focus on the character Mary Brigid, Eily's daughter particularly helps us to understand the anxiety and worry felt by people during this time. Similarly the detailed descriptions contained in the book aid our vision of the setting. Delightfully, the book ends on a positive note, ending a trilogy of books which accurately encapsulate a particular era of history. This book is suitable for children aged 10+.

Angrytuna says

[the remaning fact that Peggy's not going to see her family ever again but I guess that's pretty realistic (hide spoiler)]

Jordin says

I couldn't put this book down! I've loved each book in this series. The first was obviously the hardest to read, but they got easier each time. I love the charcters in this book. Michael and Peggy's stories are so captivating and I felt as if I were right there with them. What a beautiful conclusion to their stories.

