



In the Castle of the Flynns

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When Daniel Dorsey's parents die in a car crash, it's a devastating loss. But once the wake is over, at least he's fortunate enough to have a large extended family welcoming him with open arms, offering him care and comfort...and another chance at childhood. From a Ferris-wheel ride with a nun to a bus trip with a live chicken, *In the Castle of the Flynns* is a novel both mournful and merry-an unforgettable portrait of a boy growing up in 1950s Chicago.

In the Castle of the Flynns Details

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From Reader Review In the Castle of the Flynns for online ebook

Foxeroo says

Read a while ago now but it was an enjoyable read and not too demanding.

Sarah says

Lovely book written from the view of a man looking back at his childhood in the 50's. He lost his parents at an early age and the story follows him as he and his remaining family adjust to a new life. The story was well paced and kept my interest until the end.

Carolyn Agosta says

I read this book on the recommendation of my sister, and I certainly pass on that recommendation. This story, which reads like a true experience, is not only a wonderful look at the Irish Catholic experience in 1955 Chicago, it's also a story about how love (or the lack of it) determines so much in our lives. The book is hilarious in places (like the wedding of the main character's uncle, where the world's oldest man arrives late to church and shuffles in at the 'pace of the Wisconsin glacier', and touching in many places, bringing me to tears. Basically, it's exactly like a good old Irish wake. Just be prepared to spend some time with it - you won't be able to put this book down. I don't give many (any?) five-star reviews, but this book certainly deserves all five of those stars. Maybe a couple more, too.

Leonard says

For some reason I don't remember much about it.

Mary Libbing says

Really loved the way

Raleigh wrote. Reminded me of my Irish side of the family.

Lorilee says

I loved this book! It's told from the point of view of an 8-yr-old boy in 1955 Chicago who has lost both his parents and is taken in by his maternal grandparents. He describes the colorful characters on both sides of his family, his antics with schoolmates and beautifully & comically retells the events that take place during that time. The author depicts the emotions of this young character very insightfully and brings you into his heart.

This book will make you laugh & cry....

Effie Moutafis says

Beautifully written., a heartfelt story of young boy growing up in 1950's Chicago.

Holly says

I took this along on vacation. It was decently written and entertaining enough, but wasn't so great that I had to bring it home with me. Swapped it for another on the lending shelf at the place we were staying.

NK says

Fabulous! This is a REALLY good book. Received as a recommended read from a friend. This book contains sharp descriptions of places and people which make you feel that surely you must know them - and you might. Great insight into human nature and family relationships. If this was not a borrowed book I would consider it a "keeper" to be read again and again.

Diane Lynn says

Lovely writing.

Kathy says

A boy finds himself tragically orphaned at a very young age, and his extended Irish family steps up to take him in and try their best to raise him. This is a lovely "memior" of growing up in the late 40s early 50s in Chicago, and a tight Irish family. How much fun it was to watch the tribulations of his uncle's love lives from the perspective of a young boy who admits that he doesn's understand it all. There are escapades with his cousin and a boy-genius who owns a chemistry set (there's a reason you can't get those anymore). His grandparents and aunts and uncles share in his loss and try their best to take in this alien child and raise him without smothering him. I recommend it for readers familiar with Chicago, Irish roots, Foster families, and people that grew up during that time.

Laura says

Although this book begins with the death of Danny's parents, it is far from depressing. Danny gets taken in by his grandparents, the Irish-Catholic Flynn family, living in Chicago in the 1950's. This is a charming and endearing tale; you can't help but love this family. I listened to the audio book from my iPod at work, and some parts had me laughing aloud at my desk -- the book itself is funny, but the narrator is terrific and does

all the different voices. I definitely recommend this book to others, especially if you like books with great characters!

If you liked this book, I recommend "The Last Catholic in America" by John R. Powers.

Mary says

I've had this on my to-read list for awhile. I loved Raleigh's earlier novel "Blue Moon Circus". But I found this one less engaging.

"In the Castle of the Flynn" is set in Chicago in the mid-1950's. Danny Flynn is orphaned when he is six and his parents die in a car crash. His elderly Irish grandparents take on the task of caring for him. He tries to grapple with grieving for his parents while also observing and experiencing life in rowdy, raucous family. Although he has lost his parents, he is now surrounded by grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins and he revels in the attention. One uncle in particular, Tom, takes Danny under his wing and takes him to museums and to movies. Danny becomes very interested in Tom's life and hopes that this favorite uncle will find happiness.

I found the novel to be a bit too episodic for my taste. The arc of the story is uneven and the various relatives are only lightly sketched. The novel finally just ends, with an epilogue wrapping up various plot lines. There are great stories to tell about orphans, and great stories to write about coming of age, but this novel missed on both counts.

Robert Palmer says

A very good story about growing up in a Chicago neighborhood in the 50s. I can remember everything in this book like it was yesterday. If you did not grow up in Chicago or any other large city, this book will give you a feel of what it was all about.

Last Saturday the author, Michael Raleigh, gave a talk at the Villa Park library and it was great.

I can't think of any of my friends who wouldn't give this book 5 stars.

Ann Hermen says

I loved this book. Loved the characters. Loved the setting. Loved the story. Did I mention that I loved this book?
