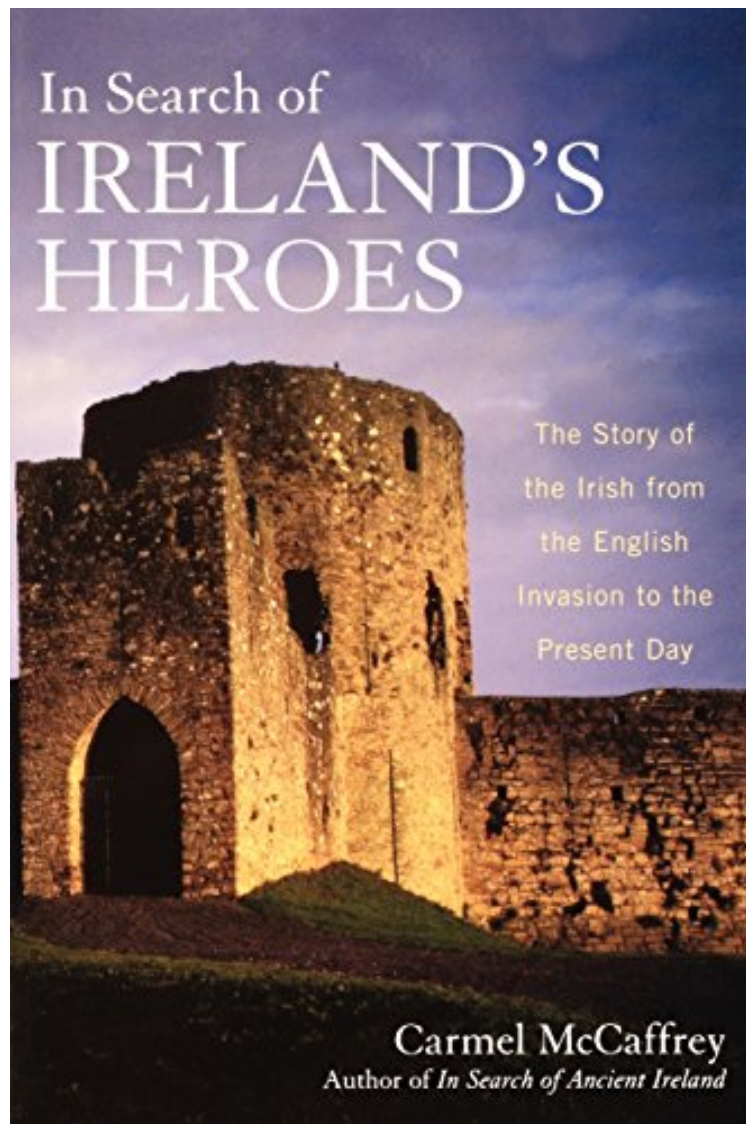


(Download) In Search of Ireland's Heroes: The Story of the Irish from the English Invasion to the Present Day

## **In Search of Ireland's Heroes: The Story of the Irish from the English Invasion to the Present Day**

*Carmel McCaffrey*

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**Carmel McCaffrey : In Search of Ireland's Heroes: The Story of the Irish from the English Invasion to the Present Day** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In Search of Ireland's Heroes: The Story of the Irish from the English Invasion to the Present Day:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Indomitable SpiritBy Marc McElligottThe author has brilliantly put

together a concise history of Ireland's struggle for independence beginning from the first English incursions in the latter half of the 12th century right up to the signing of the Good Friday Agreement right at the end of the 20th century. Covering such a large span of time as it does this is very much an overview but what really brings this book to life for me is how the author focuses much of the narrative through the lens of some of Ireland's greatest heroes. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very informative BookBy sunny mc cormick I really enjoyed this book, my only critic is that it is a little biased on the Catholic side which is understandable since most of the English atrocities were committed against the Catholics. I am originally from Northern Ireland and understand most of the history but it was great to get this informative review of Irish history. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Well Written By R. Tim Stephens I thought this book was better written than the author's earlier effort. I missed the form of a textbook less. If you liked Shakespeare's tragedies then you should love Irish history. I think this would give any Irish person even more reasons for pride. I would NOT recommend it to Anglophiles.

In *In Search of Ancient Ireland*, published by Ivan R. Dee in 2002, Carmel McCaffrey traced the history, archaeology, and legends of ancient Ireland from 9000 B.C. to the Norman invasion. Now, in an engaging sequel, Ms. McCaffrey tells the story of the struggle between English and Irish aspirations in the centuries since the first English incursions into Ireland in the twelfth century. This is a narrative history filled with powerful personalities and families who fought in battle and through constitutional means to free Ireland from English control. With an extensive use of original sources—letters, personal accounts, and parliamentary documents—Ms. McCaffrey brings these individuals to life and tells their story. We meet the intrepid O'Neills, the colorful O'Donnells, the wily Fitzgeralds, and many others whose passion for freedom and for Ireland could not be conquered. The Irish, as the book recounts, struggled over many generations to hold on to ancient lands only to lose their fight in the Elizabethan wars. In the early 1600s the ancient Irish Brehon laws were extinguished, and it seemed as if the Gaelic past had been washed from memory. Yet the story of Irish determination did not end there. Other generations took up the effort to establish an Irish parliament free of English control that would answer the needs of all citizens. To this stirring history Ms. McCaffrey brings the same adroitness that prompted Terry Golway of the *New York Observer* to call her first book "marvelous...fine storytelling and analysis." With 25 black-and-white photographs and a map.

From Publishers Weekly McCaffrey (*In Search of Ancient Ireland*) has penned a "quick," partisan (from the Catholic viewpoint) version of Irish history. The arrival of the English in the 12th century is duly noted and the long melancholy march to the modern age is marked by jumps from King Dermot MacMurrough to Oliver Cromwell, the potato famine and the political turbulence of the late 19th century. Of particular interest is McCaffrey's excellent portrait of Charles Stewart Parnell and his policies in the 1870s and '80s, such as his involvement in the Land Leagues, his quest for Home Rule, his affair with Kitty O'Shea and subsequent abandonment by both church and state. McCaffrey also views the role of the Catholic Church in Ireland and comes to some interesting conclusions about orthodoxy and traditional Irish resistance to it. The political ferment of the early 20th century is explored by painting portraits of all the familiar names, from Patrick Pearse to Eamon De Valera and Michael Collins. The modern troubles in the North are examined and the Celtic Tiger is praised (somehow without mentioning its father, 1960s' prime minister Sean Lemass). A breezy, somewhat superficial work, this will best appeal to the Irish history neophyte. (Oct. 6) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Written with verve and passion... *In Search of Ireland's Heroes* is a welcome challenge to conservative interpretations of Ireland's history. (Kerby Miller, University of Missouri) There've been plenty of books on Irish history but none quite so vivid and accessible as *In Search of Ireland's Heroes*... [which stands] solidly both as a companion volume and as an innovative history by itself. (California Bookwatch) "McCaffrey has succeeded in compiling a history of Ireland which is completely accessible without losing credibility." (Irish Emigrant) The hero stories engage, the scene-setting shines as both scholarly and readable, and the character descriptions run deep.... Magnificent collection. (Michael Phelps Examiner) From the Publisher In this engaging sequel to her previous book, *In Search of Ancient Ireland*, Carmel McCaffrey tells the story of the struggle between English and Irish aspirations in the centuries since the first English incursions into Ireland in the twelfth century. This is a narrative history filled with powerful personalities and families who fought in battle and through constitutional means to free Ireland from English control. With an extensive use of original sources—letters, personal accounts, and parliamentary documents—Ms. McCaffrey brings these individuals to life and tells their story. We meet the intrepid O'Neills, the colorful O'Donnells, the wily Fitzgeralds, and many others whose passion for freedom and for Ireland could not be conquered. The Irish, as the book recounts, struggled over many generations to hold on to ancient lands only to lose their fight in the Elizabethan wars. In the early 1600s the ancient Irish Brehon laws were extinguished, and it seemed as if the Gaelic past had been washed from memory. Yet the story of Irish determination did not end there. Other generations took up the effort to establish an Irish parliament free of English control that would answer the needs of all citizens. With extensive use of original source material from Parliamentary records, personal accounts and letters McCaffrey brings to this stirring history the same adroitness that prompted Terry Golway of the *New York Observer* to call her first book marvelous...fine storytelling and analysis.

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