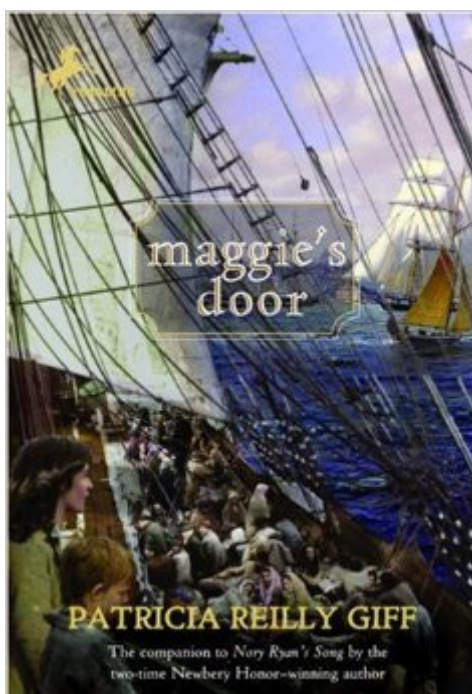


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Maggie's Door



Synopsis

We will dance on the cliffs of Brooklyn. Maggie's Door is the story of the journey from Ireland to America told by both Nory and her neighbor and friend Sean Red Mallon, two different stories with the same destination—the home of Nory's sister Maggie, at 416 Smith Street, Brooklyn, America. Patricia Reilly Giff calls upon her long research into Irish history and her great powers as a storyteller in this deeply involving, riveting stand-alone companion novel to Nory Ryan's Song. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0720 (What's this?)

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Yearling; REP REI edition (September 13, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0440415810

ISBN-13: 978-0440415817

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.4 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (23 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #148,467 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #53 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Homelessness & Poverty #139 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe #302 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Nory Ryan has a dream that one day her family will be together again. They will be in America, standing outside the door of her sister Maggie's house in Brooklyn. Nory's friend and neighbor, Sean Red Mallon, also has a dream. He imagines himself together with his brother Francey and Francey's new young wife, Maggie. Nory will be there with her family and they will all be standing outside Maggie's door. Nory and Sean share the same dream, but for now they have only hunger and misery in their lives after the potato famine hits Ireland. With no hope left, the Ryans and Mallons have decided to leave Ireland and in small groups have set off on foot for the nearest port to get a ship to England and then another ship to America. Starving, weak, and not knowing the

world beyond their own small community, the straggling travelers lose one another in the chaos of a famine-stricken Ireland. Sean finds himself alone and has to make his own way to America without a ticket or money. In his adventures, he makes a great discovery that leads him to a new goal in life as he decides that he is going to learn how to read and will have a book of his own one day. Patricia Reilly Giff keeps the children's stories separate, alternating chapters and maintaining a sense of suspense as to whether or not the family members will find one another. Giff's graphic description of the horrors of the famine makes her story very powerful. The poverty is almost beyond our understanding and the suffering of the Irish people is unspeakable. Giff also is a master of imagery. For example, when she describes the potato crop as a stinking "ooze" we visualize a vast contrast to the pretty bluish purple flowers that one sees blossoming in a field of healthy potato plants.

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