



# **The Kennedys: America's Emerald Kings: A Five-Generation History of the Ultimate Irish-Catholic Family**

*Thomas Maier*

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**"An enlightening and original portrait of an almost mythic family and the Irish-Catholic experience, and a portrait of the United States at its best and worst." --*The Star-Ledger***

Acclaimed journalist Thomas Maier draws on groundbreaking research and unprecedented access to family members and archival documents to show how the unique Kennedy saga, which has captivated America for decades, was one shaped by the common immigrant experience. The Irish-Catholic immigrant heritage was always central to the Kennedy family experience--beginning with Patrick Kennedy's 1848 arrival in Brahm Boston, continuing with Joseph Kennedy's Vatican ties and through Jackie's revelations of sorrow to Kennedy-confidante Father McSorley following the assassination of JFK. *The Kennedys* is a revelatory glimpse at a remarkable intersection of private beliefs and public politics--and a spellbinding American epic.

## The Kennedys: America's Emerald Kings: A Five-Generation History of the Ultimate Irish-Catholic Family Details

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## **From Reader Review *The Kennedys: America's Emerald Kings: A Five-Generation History of the Ultimate Irish-Catholic Family* for online ebook**

### **Michelle says**

A LOT of information, but very good if you are interested in learning more about the Kennedys

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### **Rafael says**

This book really details the life of the how the Kennedy family created their wealth during the most difficult times in America. Good read especially detailing the family history of events with the sisters and brothers to JFK.

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### **Bookish says**

The Irish Catholic family, its trials and triumphs, is all laid out in this multi-generational history, which goes back to Ireland and brings the family up to the 21st century. Thomas Maier shows how faith, clannish attitudes about political loyalty, and devotion drove not just the most politically successful generation of Kennedys—Jack, Bobby and Teddy—but the ones who gave them the chance. —John R. Bohrer (<https://www.bookish.com/articles/book...>)

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### **Mboconnor31 says**

Fascinating book. Originally, I picked this book for my mother who due to macular degeneration can no longer read. She asked me to find a book that would explain where the Irish came from. I chose this and it was a winner. It starts with the Kennedy clan's ancestors in Ireland and how the failure of the potato crop caused a mass exodus to the USA, including Patrick Kennedy, Joseph Kennedy's grandfather. And as the history of the dynasty unfolds you become steeped in modern history, traveling to England during WWII where Joseph Kennedy was Ambassador under FDR's administration to the ascent of Joseph and Rose Kennedy's son John aka Jack Fitzgerald Kennedy, JFK, to the presidency of the USA. Put your seat belt on for the Bay of Pigs, the machinations of the Roman Catholic Church and the early years of the Vietnam War.

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### **Alberto Lopez says**

Very interesting; from discriminated minority to Camelot.

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### **Bryan Craig says**

I really was fascinated how much influence the Irish background really was for the Kennedys. You get hints about it in other books, but this really fills in a much needed gap in the Kennedy literature. You should read this book to get a fuller picture of the Kennedy clan.

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### **Sue says**

750 pages long...took me probably about 3 months to finish it. Very interesting as it began with the Fitzgerald and Kennedy families in Ireland and how they ended up in America. Lots of older family history that I had not read before. Also, it did not draw out all the 'other' history that we've all either read in the past or lived through in real time.

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### **Deborah Harless says**

Loved the first half....then became pretty repetitive about the importance of Catholicism in the lives of the Kennedys

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### **Annetteb says**

This book fed my curiosity about the Kennedy family - a by-product of growing up in the JFK era. Though the book wasn't a great book, I learned a lot about Irish history, the K. family and the papal influence on the US political system. If there was another Kennedy book I'd surely read it and likely it wouldn't be a page turner but I'd read it anyway.

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### **Ellis says**

I was really surprised by this book to learn about how much Irish immigrants, and Catholics, were persecuted 100-150 years ago. I'd known about John Kennedy's comments on the separation of church and state, but reading this book puts that speech in a whole new context.

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### **Scott Archer says**

Superb. Even if you do not care for the Kennedy clan, this book is as much about the history of Irish Catholicism in America with ample research into the conditions in Ireland leading to the mass emigration. This is meticulous research worthy of 5 stars.

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## **Florie says**

You always understand people better after learning their heritage.

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## **Robert says**

I made a huge mistake checking out these tapes from the library. It could be the worst 3 dollars I ever spent. Part of the problem is the mawkish reader but his style perfectly matches the nauseating narrative that I've listened to up through the first 2 tapes. So far, I haven't heard anything except the standard whining about how tough life has been for the Irish in the land that they took by slaughtering the peaceful inhabitants that had the misfortune to arrive before them.

I'll give it my best but I don't see any chance of finishing it.

Well, I got about halfway through and finally felt guilty about running up library late fees. In fairness, I will give the book credit for becoming somewhat more objective -- at times. And interesting.

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## **Hank Pharis says**

This was a pretty good overview of the history of the Kennedy clan. I learned a lot of new trivia along the way but nothing especially enlightening.

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## **Alicia says**

Very, very good political history book. Lots of interesting detail on politics and politicians from the 1940 Boston wards to 1960's presidential politics and more. I understand now why the Catholic church is reviled by some. (The church has been involved in politics for a long, long time in a very meddlesome manner.) Drones on a bit particularly when discussing Bobby Kennedy's piousness and towards the end when writing about JFK Jr.. But, other than that it's a very good read.

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