



A Sea of Sorrows: The Typhus Epidemic Diary of Johanna Leary

Norah McClintock

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In the midst of the Irish famine, Johanna flees one disaster — only to land in another.

After a massive potato famine strikes Ireland, thirteen-year-old Johanna Leary flees to Canada with her family.

But typhus and other illnesses plague the "coffin ships," so named for the staggering number of immigrants who died enroute. One by one Johanna loses the members of her family — first her baby brother on the journey over, then her mother in the Grosse Isle fever sheds where sick passengers are quarantined when they reach the port of Québec, and her father soon after. Johanna has only her brother Michael left when she sets foot on Canadian soil.

When her brother is mistakenly told that she too has died, he sets off to find their uncle "somewhere in Canada," leaving Johanna to face a new life in a strange land... totally alone.

A Sea of Sorrows captures a dreadful time in history for those desperate, impoverished Irish families who hoped to make Canada their home. Johanna's incredible journey of survival is told with insight and sensitivity by master storyteller Norah McClintock.

A Sea of Sorrows: The Typhus Epidemic Diary of Johanna Leary Details

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From Reader Review A Sea of Sorrows: The Typhus Epidemic Diary of Johanna Leary for online ebook

Kelly says

This was such a great book to read!! Sad, but some relief from sorrow interspersed. Rich history.

Young Adult Historical Vault says

Why not just call it "Unrelenting Misery" and be done with it? Not a bad book, but it lacks a certain emotional depth and affect that would push it into a higher rating. The first edition also suffers from some signs that it was poorly edited and not all that well, which doesn't help the feeling that it was rushed out by the publisher. A fascinating topic, but one that isn't well served by this treatment.

For my full review including spoilers, check out Young Adult Historical Vault.
<https://yahistoricalvault.com/2017/05...>

Meghan says

I love stories of people living among epidemics and pandemics. I have two small complaints. There was a typo on the very first page and in the historical note a picture was used twice. One character had the same name as someone in Titanic. Still it was a great story and Johanna is one of the few DC characters who is not twelve years old.

Megurine says

AWESOME but also sad. it is a very good book

Shanelle says

A Sea of Sorrows is yet another book from the Dear Canada series about a girl named Johanna Leary, who travels with her family from Ireland to Canada during the famine. This story reflects the family's struggles as they endure a gruelling travel experience aboard a ship which harbours a fever known as the Typhus epidemic. Can Johanna and her family survive this epidemic and find their known relative, Johanna's uncle, who lives in Canada?

Brooke says

It's tragically official that the Potato Famine isn't my favorite historical topic. I'm going to read other historical books instead.

Nicola Mansfield says

Absolutely one of the BEST books in this series. It was surprising for me to find that McClintock, famous for her YA mysteries and thrillers, was the author. This is her first historical fiction and her reason and connection to the genre is explained in the author's note; I certainly hope she offers us more. This is a story of the Irish Potato Famine from boarding the ship until one year later in Canada. The book takes place first on the ship then in Montreal and finally ends in Sherbrooke. The book concentrates on the devastating hardships the Irish faced during this time when they turned to Canada for a new life and instead found disease, death and profound prejudice. Johanna tells her story as she struggles with losing her family, working as a servant and being called lazy, filth to her face. The book is suited for the upper age range of this series as it is powerful and deals heavily with death, of children, over and over. Irish literature is often known for its moroseness and McClintock has followed suit with this story. The ending makes the tough going worth the read though. A well-written, emotional period piece.

Hana H says

this book is amazing but for those of you that don't like tragic deaths involving sickness I suggest u don't read this book! rate 9/10

Meaghan Steeves says

Fantastic. Depressing of course, but I enjoyed this a lot more the second time around.

Jacquie says

Another great jr. fiction novel. Historical fiction is great.

Alexandra says

So touching and inspirational, truly amazed on how well it was written.

Shanelle says

This is one of my favourites from the Dear Canada series because the author goes into such detail about the Irish Potato Famine and how it relates to Canadian history. Not only do we learn about life in Ireland at that

time, we are able to imagine the journey families like the Leary's had to take, to come to Canada. We also get a further understanding of the struggles that those individuals had once they arrived. Therefore this is a must read if you are a fan of the series.

Georgia says

Review to come!

Mia says

Very sad but one of the best books in this series!

Susan Zuidema says

So sad...
