



Title: Mary Quigley's Da: A Personal Tragedy of an Irish Immigrant Caught on the Kansas-Missouri Border during the Civil War
Author: Mary Jaffe Publisher:
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Reviewed by: Tony Espinoza

Whether it is a global event or a personal family matter, legacies are born and thrive every day within our world. A family legacy can be one of the most powerful of all, for good or bad. As Marian Wright Edelman once said, "I feel very lucky to have grown up having interaction with adults who were making change but who were far from perfect beings. That feeling of not being paralyzed by your incredible inadequacy as a human being, which I feel every day, is a part of the legacy that I've gotten from so many of the adult elders."

In author Mary Jaffe's historical fiction, *Mary Quigley's Da: A Personal Tragedy of an Irish Immigrant Caught on the Kansas-Missouri Border during the Civil War*, the author takes some of her own personal family history and the history of our nation and develops an engaging historical fiction read like no other. Following the legacy of the family of Irish immigrant Joseph Quigley, the author details the man's life and the events which defined him in detail, from his family's escaping the Potato Famine and moving to America, to his teen years in a cow town, to his military service and taking his new wife into the wild frontier.

This is a truly fascinating read. The book opens shockingly and strongly, taking the perspective of young Mary Quigley, the daughter of Joseph, who along with her siblings find themselves orphaned and their family rocked by a dark and terrible secret. Their world torn apart, the book then goes into the life of Joseph and the events leading up to that horrific moment. The blend of history along with the personal family legacy was well written throughout this book, but it was the character growth and evolution which really stood out, as the family history, culture, and dynamic really helped each character's arc grow and showcase the downfall of this family even more. The dual nature of Joseph with his wife and children can be felt in every page, making this such an engrossing read.

This is the perfect book for those who enjoy historical fiction, in particular reads which involve immigrant families living in 19th century America, during and after the Civil War, and the concept of personal family legacy blended with historical fiction. As a fan of the genre, it was easy to get wrapped up in the narrative and the fact that part of this story is based on true events which makes this tale both sadder, yet even more thought-provoking, a true sign of a masterful historical fiction narrative.

Heartbreaking, historically driven and a lengthy read, author Mary Jaffe's *Mary Quigley's Da: A Personal Tragedy of an Irish Immigrant Caught on the Kansas-Missouri Border during the Civil War* is a great book. Analyzing the way family legacy grows and the mystery which surrounds dark moments in a legacy, this book is the perfect blend of family drama and history.

