

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

By Thomas Maier

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For 150 years, the story of the Kennedy family has been inextricably linked to their heritage as Irish-Catholic immigrants—from Patrick Kennedy's 1848 arrival in Brahmin Boston from Country Wexford Ireland, to Joseph Kennedy's Vatican ties and Jackie's thoughts on faith and sorrow, to Kennedy-confidante Father McSorley's religious counsel following the assassination of JFK. Through groundbreaking interviews with Senator Edward Kennedy and other Kennedy family and friends, acclaimed journalist Thomas Maier casts the Kennedy saga in an entirely new light, showing how their Irish catholic heritage influenced their public and private decisions. Released to coincide with a documentary adapted from the book, this edition features a new preface, in which Maier explores the dynamics of the three brothers, Ted Kennedy's legacy, and the 2008 presidential elections that have been touched in so many ways by the Kennedy family.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
With Doris Kearns Goodwin's The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys out of favor and discredited by charges of plagiarism, the door is open and the time is right for another serious, multigenerational history of America's most fabled clan. Newsday reporter Maier (Dr. Spock: An American Life) answers the need quite well with this fascinating account, which emphasizes the family's roots as Catholics and products of the Irish diaspora. Unlike Ed Klein's provocative The Kennedy Curse, this thoughtful study does not dwell on the sensational. Maier goes to the heart of the Kennedys' spiritual and tribal identity in order to define and explain a range of subplots within the family saga. For example, one sees Ambassador Joseph P. Kennedy's appeasement of the Nazis and his general insensitivity to the plight of Europe's Jews during the late 1930s in fuller colors than before when one realizes the context in which he operated and the tradition out of which he sprang, rich with ancient, profound and unapologetic anti-Semitism. (JPK also clung to the traditional Irish-Catholic bias against Great Britain.) Maier likewise supplies a masterful account of the culture and habits related to Boston's distinctly Irish-Catholic ward politics, first experienced by young JFK in 1946. And he goes on to explore conservative Catholic anger over JFK's moves to "appease"-in the opinion of the Jesuit magazine America-anti-Catholic bigots during the 1960 election. This is all very fertile ground seeded, to a great extent, with items quite rare in recent Kennedy scholarship: new information mingled with genuine insight. It's an admirable job overall. 32 pages of photos not seen by PW.
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From Booklist
Just when you thought there was no way to write about the Kennedys from a new angle, Maier comes up with one. His take is to view the family through the green prism of Ireland and, by extension, to examine their relationship to the Roman Catholic Church. This makes for surprisingly fresh reading. Although many of the stories related here are familiar--Joe Kennedy's attempts to break into Brahmin society, the impact on the family of daughter Kathleen's penchant for Protestant men--Maier deepens the account by also bringing up less discussed incidents, such as Congressman John Kennedy's trip to Ireland (and Jackie's, four years after the assassination) and how both the Catholic faith and JFK's Irish heritage played integral parts at the president's funeral. Nor does the story end with the Camelot days. Jean Kennedy Smith, the eighth child in the family, served as ambassador to Ireland, and Bobby Kennedy's daughter, Courtney, married Paul Hill, wrongly imprisoned by the police for terrorism. This extremely readable biography not only examines one particular immigrant family but also sheds light on the larger story of Irish Americans from the early twentieth century onward. *Ilene Cooper*
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Review
"A fascinating new perspective.... A valuable book because of it focus on influences other biographies have overlooked." -- - *Houston Chronicle*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Gertrude Barrett:

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have considerably more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open as well as read a book entitled The Kennedys: America's Emerald Kings: A Five-Generation History of the Ultimate Irish-Catholic Family? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time with your favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have some other opinion?

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Raymond Brown:

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read a book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent the whole day to reading a publication. The book The Kennedys: America's Emerald Kings: A Five-Generation History of the Ultimate Irish-Catholic Family it is very good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book has high quality.

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