



## **1999: A Novel of the Celtic Tiger and the Search for Peace**

*Morgan Llywelyn*

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**The Irish Century concludes in this climactic novel; Llywelyn's masterpiece is complete**

The Irish Century series is the story of the Irish people's epic struggle for independence through the tumultuous course of the twentieth century. Morgan Llywelyn's magisterial multi-novel chronicle of that story began with *1916*, which was followed by *1921*, *1949*, and *1972*. It now concludes with *1999: A Novel of the Celtic Tiger and the Search for Peace*. *1999* brings the story from *1972* to the disarmament talks and beginnings of reconciliation among the Irish at the end of the twentieth century.

Barry Halloran, strong, clever, and passionately patriotic, who was the central character of *1972*, remains central. Now a crippled photojournalist, he marries his beloved Barbara Kavanaugh, and steps back from the armed struggle. Through his work he documents the historic events that take us from the horrific aftermath of Bloody Sunday through the decades of The Troubles to the present. This is a noble conclusion to an historical mega-novel that will be read for years.

## 1999: A Novel of the CelticTiger and the Search for Peace Details

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## Katrina says

[ having Barry end up with Barbara. It was a horrible match and everybody around them knew it. I wanted to reach in to the book and wring her neck

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## Mary Alaga says

This was one of the best series I have ever read. From 1916 to 1999, I feel that I have a better understanding of the Irish experience. How the Irish just wanted to be their own country, to be free to rule themselves, but the interests and the might of the English government wouldn't allow it .

I remember the the one sided filtered press that we (the U.S.) got about what was happening in Ireland. The atrocities committed by the IRA, but not the atrocities committed by the British Military. We heard about the people starving themselves to death, but not the reason why. They starved because it was the only way to protest the inhumane treatment they received as political prisoners. I remember Bobby Sands. I remember the Irish being portrayed as "those Irish, they never know when to leave well enough alone." In fact, there was so much abuse done to them that we never heard about.

I'm happy to now know the Irish side of the story. The side the British Government didn't want me to know. I can say that I am more proud than ever to be of Irish heritage.

Up the Irish!!

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## Joe Kendall says

This is the last book in a gripping series about the Irish Troubles during the twentieth century. This last installment takes place between Blood Sunday 1972 and 1999. Llywelyn does a fantastic job bringing the reader in and ride the emotional roller-coaster that is the Irish life. She does a fantastic job of showing all the good that the IRA could do and all the bad that they did with it. How the different sects of unionists were ruthless to anyone that was not them. And how the British managed to make matters worse. This series is a must read for anyone that is interested in Irish history.

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## Pam Diggins says

I had a really difficult time rating this book and series.

It is a very readable way to learn the history of 20th century Ireland as it mixes actual history with the fictional Halloran family's story over several generations. My criticism is that the author's presentation at times was unsophisticated and also random facts and world history were not smoothly cited.

But I ended up giving it 4 stars as it was so informative without the dryness of a textbook. The books certainly enriched my last two visits to Ireland and inspired a visit to Belfast.

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## **Tom says**

This is not the best historical fiction I've ever read. In fact, most of these books in her Irish Century series have been a little dull. I like the story, and liked the exposure to the characters thinking. Inasmuch as I lived through a lot of the events talked about in the book, or rather, I was alive during, it was interesting to see them from a different point of view. The story itself, though, is fairly weak, and the book is only as long as it is because of the use of quotes and little snippets about what was going on around the world at the time. Again, those are necessary parts of good historical fiction, but she doesn't really include them in the story - just puts them in there as little freestanding paragraphs.

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## **Katy M says**

This book felt rushed. I don't know if the author just got sick of the series. Or, if there was too much info for one book, but not enough for two. The last 10 years or so just felt like it was on fast forward.

I haven't like Ursula since 1949, and while she was more likeable as an old lady, I didn't really feel she redeemed herself in my eyes. And, Barbara. Is anyone really that self-centered? We are all, every one of us, self-centered to a certain degree. But, I swear, Barbara thinks people exist only for her convenience and amusement.

And, I don't know if the author was losing track of time, but it didn't seem like she knew how old Barry's kids were getting. They were born between 1973 or 4 and 1979 and in the mid-90s Barry is having to explain things to them. Not that I'm saying they should know everything by their 20s, but it seemed like he was explaining to literal children, not his children. And in 1997, when the oldest child was 23 or 24, he said he didn't know what he was going to be (career-wise), but whatever he did he would win. What? How can he have no idea what he's going to do with his life at that stage. He is, of course, free to change his mind, or not succeed and have to do something different, but still aimless at 23? And nobody says anything about this? Not even Ursula, AKA, Little Business-so named because she was always busy?

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## **Karen Gibson says**

This is the final book in Llywelyn's Irish Century series. It was good, but somehow this one and 1972 just didn't draw me in like the first three books of the series did. I'm glad I read the whole series, though. I feel like I have a little better grasp of the players and events in Ireland's quest for independence.

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## **Alma Ramos-McDermott says**

Barry Halloran's personal fight as a photojournalist against Ireland's occupation by the British continues in the last book of The Irish Century series. In "1999" readers are infused with information about the various IRA Republican factions which continued their battles for a united Ireland, contrasted with crimes committed against Catholics by British and Protestant organizations aided and abetted by local police. Read the rest of

the review on my blog: <https://shouldireaditornot.wordpress....>

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### **Tom Garland says**

I loved this entire series...historical fiction of an Irish family as Ireland progressed into an independent nation. If you read this book start with 1916, 1923, 1949, 1972 and final book 1999. Great writer...beautifully. Great historical context not just in Ireland but around the world. I learned a lot about the struggle for Irish independence.

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### **Joe McMahon says**

I have to agree with the general mood of the other reviewers. There were some inconsistencies in the fictional plot, but it was bearable. Two topics stand out in my interest: the extent to which loyalty can be destructive; and the role of collusion between a government's secret agencies and people who murder.

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### **Kathryn says**

This is the last in a set of novels covering a century of Irish history. Well-written and researched with a true flavor of the culture and politics of the nation, I now want nothing more than to read more about the country's history, which is far more complicated than the BBC would have had us believe.

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### **Gene says**

I like all of her books. I've come away with a profound dislike of Great Britain. I hope Brexit destroys Northern Ireland and the UK. The Brits deserve the worst that can possibly occur to their crappy island.

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### **Judy Dhuse says**

Overall I liked the series. It gave me a better understanding of the struggles Ireland has gone through to obtain independence. This book felt rushed and disjointed however. Because the fictional characters no longer seemed to be involved in events happening around them, a lot of information seemed as an aside and no longer as important as it should have been. Still the book was OK and I still learned quite a bit about what was going on when I was of an age to pay attention to the violence going on in that part of the world.

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### **John Kalnberg says**

**Good but seemed like the author ran out of steam**

I enjoyed the series and reading this is a necessary part of finishing 5hat. However, this individual book was short on plot and includes a lot of pure listing of what happened. As history it is interesting, as a novel the other books in the series were much better.

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## **Sara says**

Picking up right where 1972 left off, Bloody Sunday, 1999 is the final novel in the Irish Century series. This book is filled to the brim with the tension, mayhem and horror that marked the last quarter of the 20th century in Ireland. Events from Bloody Sunday, the random murders of the Irish people for nothing more than their religion, the bombing of Dublin, the explosion that killed Lord Mountbatten and his grandchildren while boating, the interment of suspected Volunteers in inhumane conditions that flouted guidelines set out by the Geneva Convention while paramilitaries on the loyalist side were given free reign, the hunger strike that resulted in the deaths of ten men - including Bobby Sands who was a member of the British Parliament though still imprisoned, and other events that defy explanation. With this for a backdrop, the Halloran family saga continues with Barry's marriage and the birth of his children.

This is a hard book for me to review. I learned more from this book than I did from any of the others. The information in the first four books is knowledge that has become well known to anyone who has studied Irish history. It is easy to access and educate yourself on the time period preceding Bloody Sunday. The events following Bloody Sunday are a different story. The British government clamped down on all news getting in and out of Northern Ireland, telling the world only what it wanted to know. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher became one of the single greatest enemies of the Irish people since the Easter uprising and Rebellion. I was shocked by the revelation that the British not only approved of loyalist paramilitaries while calling IRA members terrorists, but they assisted them by providing both guns and information. I was also shocked by the abject poverty in which the Irish continued to live. Some regions, even in the early 1990s, were without indoor plumbing.

On the other hand, the storyline was completely out of sync. The timeline of events was hopelessly tangled and annoyed this reader to no end. In addition, Barry's wife was utterly unlikeable. It really detracted from the book as a whole. If I were to rate the story separate from the facts it would only get 2 stars while the factual events would get a solid five stars.

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