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Mathis' "The fabric of hope: An Irish family legacy" (Book Review)

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Book Reviews



Mathis, S. G. (2017). *The fabric of hope: An Irish family legacy*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. 268 pp. ISBN 9781542890861

Spanning a one hundred sixty-year time frame, this novel begins in Northern Ireland in 1850. Margaret Hawkins lets her husband know in no uncertain terms that she absolutely will not allow her six children to set foot on a ship bound for the New World. However, after the sudden death of her father and a letter discovered after his passing, she agrees that they must honor his last request and venture out to a new life with relatives in Canada.

Fast forward to 2010 where Maggie Dolan, great great granddaughter of James and Margaret, is bemoaning the loss of a family quilt that had come to Canada with her family back in 1850. The quilt had been passed down for several generations, and after Maggie's divorce she finds that it is missing. Her ex-husband denies any knowledge of the quilt's whereabouts, so Maggie sets out to find it.

The book goes back and forth from James and Margaret's saga to Maggie's life and her quest to find the missing quilt. Along the way both Margaret and Maggie encounter difficult situations and both realize their need to cling only to their faith in Christ to help get them through their trials.

The story was easy to follow and included quite a bit of Irish historical information, which I found interesting, which added to the understanding of why James and Margaret felt compelled to leave their homeland in the first place.

I would recommend this novel as a good addition to a church library or for personal enjoyment.

Reviewer

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