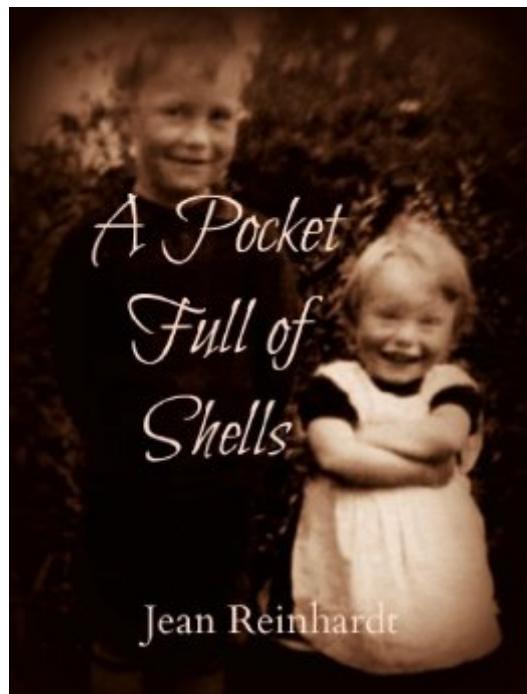


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A Pocket Full Of Shells (An Irish Family Saga Book 1)



Synopsis

In 1846 a baby girl is born to a young Irish fisherman and his wife. It is the second year of The Great Hunger and the young couple choose to remain in Ireland while family and friends are leaving. Their story takes place in the fishing village of Blackrock, near Dundalk, but the cities of Liverpool and Sunderland have a significant influence on their lives. Is their love for each other and their homeland enough to sustain them? Will they be forced to join the one and a half million who emigrate? This is the story of a young man's love for his wife and child as he struggles to provide for a family in one of the darkest periods of Ireland's history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Irish author Jean Reinhardt, though born in Louth, reared in Dublin and settled in Clare, lives in a seaside town in Cork, Ireland. Her exposure to other places included an extended stay in Alicante, Spain, and her Young Adult books she terms the Finding Series carry some influence from the encountered mysticism of that sojourn. But now, comfortably settled back in her homeland she offers this historical novel, *A POCKET FULL OF SHELLS*, which is not only solidly based in Ireland but

also influence by her ancestors experiences during the mid 19th century. Reinhardt opens her book, not with a preface but with an actual note from the author that not only offers background for her story but places our attention on the facts of the times in which the story takes places: 'How did James, a fisherman, and Mary manage to raise a family at a time when one person in every nine inhabitants died between the years 1845 and 1852? From the records I have discovered that their last child was born in Ireland in 1862, so it seems they were not among the one and a half million who emigrated in the hopes of a better life elsewhere. Many of those hopeful, starving people died on the 'coffin' ships sailing to their new destination or shortly after they arrived. The population of Ireland is just over four and a half million today, but it is estimated that upwards of seventy million people throughout the world claim Irish descent.' And bit of history from the dictionary helps define the situation: In Ireland, the Great Famine (Irish: an Gorta MÁr) was a period of mass starvation, disease and emigration between 1845 and 1852.

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