



## 'Tis: A Memoir

By Frank McCourt

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### 'Tis: A Memoir By Frank McCourt

The #1 *New York Times* bestselling sequel to the beloved Pulitzer Prize-winning classic memoir, *Angela's Ashes*, about McCourt's coming of age as an immigrant in America.

Frank McCourt's glorious childhood memoir, *Angela's Ashes*, has been loved and celebrated by readers everywhere for its spirit, its wit and its profound humanity. A tale of redemption, in which storytelling itself is the source of salvation, it won the National Book Critics Circle Award, the *Los Angeles Times* Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize. Rarely has a book so swiftly found its place on the literary landscape.

And now we have *'Tis*, the story of Frank's American journey from impoverished immigrant to brilliant teacher and raconteur. Frank lands in New York at age nineteen, in the company of a priest he meets on the boat. He gets a job at the Biltmore Hotel, where he immediately encounters the vivid hierarchies of this "classless country," and then is drafted into the army and is sent to Germany to train dogs and type reports. It is Frank's incomparable voice -- his uncanny humor and his astonishing ear for dialogue -- that renders these experiences spellbinding.

When Frank returns to America in 1953, he works on the docks, always resisting what everyone tells him, that men and women who have dreamed and toiled for years to get to America should "stick to their own kind" once they arrive. Somehow, Frank knows that he should be getting an education, and though he left school at fourteen, he talks his way into New York University. There, he falls in love with the quintessential Yankee, long-legged and blonde, and tries to live his dream. But it is not until he starts to teach -- and to write -- that Frank finds his place in the world. The same vulnerable but invincible spirit that captured the hearts of readers in *Angela's Ashes* comes of age.

As Malcolm Jones said in his *Newsweek* review of *Angela's Ashes*, "It is only the best storyteller who can so beguile his readers that he leaves them wanting more when he is done...and McCourt proves himself one of the very best." Frank McCourt's *'Tis* is one of the most eagerly awaited books of our time, and it is a masterpiece.

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## 'Tis: A Memoir By Frank McCourt Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

The sequel to Frank McCourt's memoir of his Irish Catholic boyhood, *Angela's Ashes*, picks up the story in October 1949, upon his arrival in America. Though he was born in New York, the family had returned to Ireland due to poor prospects in the United States. Now back on American soil, this awkward 19-year-old, with his "pimpley face, sore eyes, and bad teeth," has little in common with the healthy, self-assured college students he sees on the subway and dreams of joining in the classroom. Initially, his American experience is as harrowing as his impoverished youth in Ireland, including two of the grimmest Christmases ever described in literature. McCourt views the U.S. through the same sharp eye and with the same dark humor that distinguished his first memoir: race prejudice, casual cruelty, and dead-end jobs weigh on his spirits as he searches for a way out. A glimpse of hope comes from the army, where he acquires some white-collar skills, and from New York University, which admits him without a high school diploma. But the journey toward his position teaching creative writing at Stuyvesant High School is neither quick nor easy. Fortunately, McCourt's openness to every variety of human emotion and longing remains exceptional; even the most damaged, difficult people he encounters are richly rendered individuals with whom the reader can't help but feel uncomfortable kinship. The magical prose, with its singing Irish cadences, brings grandeur and beauty to the most sorrowful events, including the final scene, set in a Limerick graveyard. --Wendy Smith

### From Publishers Weekly

The appeal of McCourt as a reader of his own memoirs (*Angela's Ashes* flourished commercially on audio, in both abridged and unabridged formats) lies in his ability to express a sustained sense of wonder at the world around him. Also, his brogue is classic, an Irish species unto itself. Here he takes up where he left off in his last book, arriving in America. He is first guided by an Irish bartender who tells him to go to the New York Public Library and read Samuel Johnson. Thus assimilated, he becomes a supply clerk for the army, stationed in postwar Germany, then a warehouse laborer living in a rooming house, before earning a college degree at NYU and settling down as a teacher at a rowdy vocational high school in Staten Island. Along the way come romance and immigrant's-eye life observations aplenty, and a growing sense of knowingness develops even as McCourt's hopes are dashed against disillusion. Simultaneous release with the Scribner hardcover. Also available unabridged and on CD. (Sept.)

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### From Library Journal

McCourt's sequel to his Pulitzer Prize-winning *Angela's Ashes* picks up where that book left off and takes the reader to the mid-1980s. 'Tis starts strong. Drafted during the Korean War, McCourt served in Europe. Afterward, he returned to New York City, and, with stints on the docks and clerking, worked his way through New York University to become a teacher. There are flat spots where he drifts from boarding house to boarding house, job to job, and he begins to parody himself. Counseled to keep to his own kind, he reaches out. He describes the prejudice against Irish Catholicism at NYU and amuses us with descriptions of his struggle to fit in. Then he begins to see his life in rosy colors; his days teaching in New York's tough schools read as if he taught the Little Rascals, and he dodges the 1960s as best he can. Later, as a father who leaves his wife, his behavior mirrors his own father's. As something he recognizes without exploring, truly a lost opportunity. A good book, 'Tis has an obligatory role to play with best-seller status, but it comes in a dim second to *Angela's Ashes*. A Robert Moore, Sudbury, MA

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Timothy King:**

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important take action, like looking for your favorite publication and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your short lived problem; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled 'Tis: A Memoir. Try to make the book 'Tis: A Memoir as your close friend. It means that it can being your friend when you sense alone and beside that course make you smarter than ever. Yeah, it is very fortunated to suit your needs. The book makes you considerably more confidence because you can know every little thing by the book. So , we should make new experience and also knowledge with this book.

#### **Harriette Corwin:**

As people who live in often the modest era should be revise about what going on or info even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era that is always change and progress. Some of you maybe can update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to you is you don't know what kind you should start with. This 'Tis: A Memoir is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

#### **Jorge Eaton:**

'Tis: A Memoir can be one of your starter books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to place every word into delight arrangement in writing 'Tis: A Memoir nevertheless doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource data that maybe you can be one among it. This great information can easily drawn you into fresh stage of crucial considering.

#### **Helen Massey:**

The book untitled 'Tis: A Memoir contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains your girlfriend idea with easy technique. The language is very clear to see all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read the item. The book was written by famous author. The author will take you in the new age of literary works. It is easy to read this book because you can read more your smart phone, or device, so you can read the book throughout anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can available their official web-site in addition to order it. Have a nice examine.

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