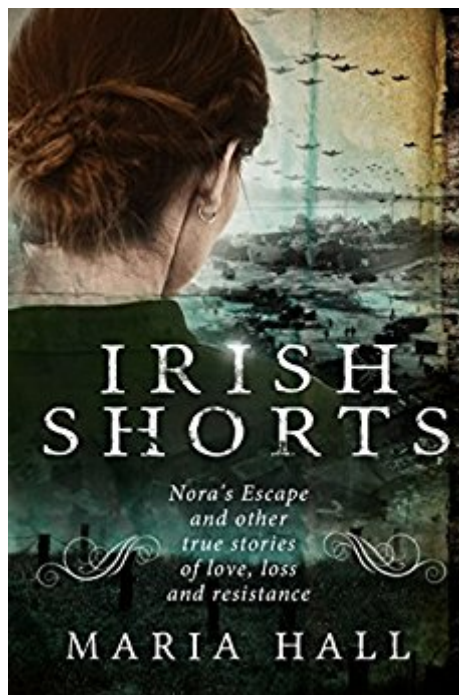




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# Irish Shorts: Nora's Escape And Other True Stories Of Love, Loss And Resistance



## Synopsis

Six true stories from an Irish Catholic family caught in the iron grip of a changing world. Told with unvarnished honesty, dry humour and a good dose of drama, we meet a young girl as she escapes her oppressive father to start life anew in the wilds of New Zealand. We see a family's Christian values tested upon discovering their house broken into, and the culprit lurking close by. The decades pass, and world wars turn into religious ones as author Maria Hall travels to bomb-blasted Belfast in search of her heritage and connection to one of Ireland's most famous artists. But is their family hero the man they thought him to be? These are just some of the treasures revealed by Hall as she picks through family legend and fact to uncover tales of resistance, love and survival across three awe-inspiring generations.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Irish Shorts: Nora's Escape and other true stories of love, loss and resistance by Maria Hall is a great compilation of short stories that are actually snapshots of her families background pieced together in a wonderful well-written book. What starts out with the info that these are real stories

then begins with Nora's Escape and crisp engaging dialogue has me right into the read. Dialogue like, "I'll never talk to ya again and I'll leave ya nothin," begins our adventure here with Nora and her parents: mother Agnes and father Joseph. She has set sail from Belfast to Australia in 1914, a time when young women didn't readily travel unmarried. When we find out the reason for her departure we're invested in the characters and want to find out what is going to happen. No interest is lost as the story progresses along and the short stories move with continuity. What makes this read all the more charming are the real photos, historical vignettes in themselves that bring the characters alive. I absolutely loved reading on about The Wartime Bride, which starts with a heart-wrenching telegram and never loses pace, again highlighted with fabulous real photos including a Lancaster bomber over England. His tale moves along to The Midwife with another exciting beginning that involves what reads like a medical emergency. The action doesn't let up and continues on to The Intruder, The matriarch, and the Lavery Connection with more photos giving scenes and dialogue a real sense of history. What an enjoyable read.

I have to admit the cover drew me in at first glance. It's lovely. I'm also quite intrigued by stories of ancestry, especially with histories of war, love and loss, and perseverance. This little gem of a novella tells the tale of several generations spanning most of the twentieth century. It's wonderful to see the author embrace history and family triumphs as well as disasters. Life is rarely simple. The human spirit can endure much and I loved to see how these strong Irish women carried through their lives, despite hardship and chaos, uncertainty and fear, to overcome and succeed. Such a wonderful set of tales. Quite an interesting and intriguing glimpse into the lives of those who have gone before us. I thoroughly enjoyed Irish Shorts.

These short stories were wonderfully evocative of the life of an Irish family throughout the generations. Regardless of whether in Ireland or New Zealand, the family's customs, faith and culture override everything. These are marvellous snippets of Irish life and I really enjoyed them. Very filmic, very well written and very real!

"Irish Shorts" by Maria Hall spans 3 earlier generations of women in her family starting with Agnes and her daughter Nora's escape from Belfast, Ireland to New Zealand in 1914; Patricia, Nora's daughter and

Maria's mother; and Maria's birth story. I had read "Reparation, A Spiritual Journey" which is Maria Hall's story, and these stories went further back in her family's history. The family photographs and stories of their lives through those times of war and peace captured amazing moments in history and family treasures.

"Irish Shorts" is a very well-written collection of short stories, describing life, traditions and religious views of one particular family. It is a great read for anyone who is interested in history, as each story offers a snippet of such historical events as WWI or the Great War, waves of immigration to New Zealand and into the United States, WWII, and many more. From a religious point of view, this collection sheds a light onto many relevant topics: clashes between Catholics and Protestants in the UK, influence of religion on aspects of everyday life (where the protagonist had a problem with accepting a stranger in her house or was scolded for watching a movie that was deemed inappropriate by her religious grandmother), and making a choice between a promising career and one's moral obligations. What I also appreciated was a number of pictures dotted throughout the narration, which made my reading experience even more pleasurable. I would definitely recommend this short story collection. Five stars.

Maria Hall writes wonderful cross-section insight into life in Ireland from an Irish Catholic perspective in Irish Shorts: Nora's Escape and other true stories of love, loss and resistance. I loved the historical aspects of the series along with a story of Irish migration to other countries. I am a fan of the short story medium, and these are an excellent example of the genre.

A touching, thought provoking memoir of the author's family history, broken up into short stories, each representing a different generation. An easy but at times heart wrenching read, but powerful in scope and meaning...

A lovely and interesting read. I like reading the occasional short and this collection was enjoyable even more so because each piece is connected, one to the next. It's beautifully written - well done.

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