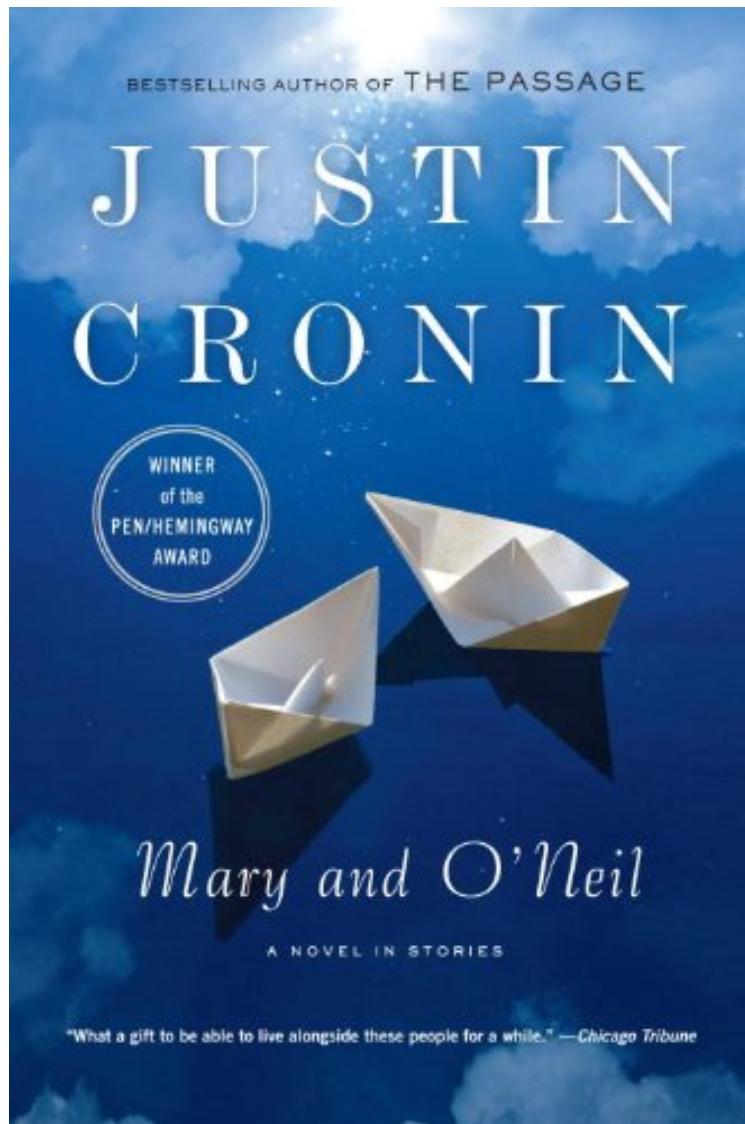


(Download free ebook) Mary and O'Neil

Mary and O'Neil

Von Justin Cronin

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Von Justin Cronin : Mary and O'Neil before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mary and O'Neil:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Good but not his best workVon Elfriede NitzscheThis was a good story, however his other books are masterpieces, so it pales a bit in comparison. Nonetheless, a worthwhile read.

Kurzbeschreibung Mary and O'Neil frequently marveled at how, of all the lives they might have led, they had somehow found this one together. When they met at the Philadelphia high school where they'd come to teach, each had suffered a profound loss that had not healed. How likely was it that they could learn to trust, much less love, again? Justin Cronin's poignant debut traces the lives of Mary Olson and O'Neil Burke, two vulnerable young teachers who rediscover in each other a world alive with promise and hope. From the formative experiences of their early adulthood to marriage, parenthood, and beyond, this novel in stories illuminates the moments of grace that enable Mary and O'Neil to make peace with the deep emotional legacies that haunt them: the sudden, mysterious death of O'Neil's parents, Mary's long-ago decision to end a pregnancy, O'Neil's sister's battle with illness and a troubled marriage. Alive with magical nuance and unexpected encounters, Mary and O'Neil celebrates the uncommon in common lives, and the redemptive power of love. From Booklist This is a story of fidelity, pregnancy, maturation, cancer, and death--all well-tread themes in current fiction. Presented as "a novel in stories," we meet a middle-aged couple coping with crises, whose troubles seem to be transferred inevitably onto their children. The bulk of the novel centers on one of these children, O'Neil, and his wife, Mary, and relays the happenings of their individual lives as they graduate from college, meet girls and boys, and eventually settle down with each other. The utilization of worn-out ideas often burdens the novel, restraining it from ever taking flight. But despite being heavy in places, the novel is generally well written. Cronin's use of language, when crisp and inventive, allows the characters a freedom to develop within the tired concepts, which in turn uplifts the novel. Although his literary influences frequently peek through, particularly his fondness for Updike, should first-novelist Cronin continue shaping his voice, he will be an author to keep your eyes open for. Jeff Snowbarger Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved From Library Journal It is 1979, and 19-year-old O'Neil Burke has it all. He's in love, successful in college, and warmed by the affection of his parents and older sister Kay. After a weekend visiting their son, the Burkes, protecting each other from dark, unshared secrets, drive off an icy embankment and die. O'Neil's mounting losses include his girl, his career ambitions, and any sense of direction. Eventually, he finds his way back into a pleasant life, teaching high school English in Philadelphia and marrying Mary. More sorrow solidifies the bond between O'Neil and his sister when she fights a losing battle with cancer in her late thirties. Cronin's key mistake in this fine series of linked short stories about a family weathering crushing blows is indicated by his misleading title. Mary, who makes her first appearance nearly 100 pages into the book, is not nearly the presence that O'Neil, his parents, and his sister are. This is too bad, as the scenes between Mary and O'Neil are rich with affectionate humor, leaving the reader wanting more. Nevertheless, this is a worthy first effort by a novelist worth watching. -DBeth E. Andersen, Ann Arbor Dist. Lib., MI Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.