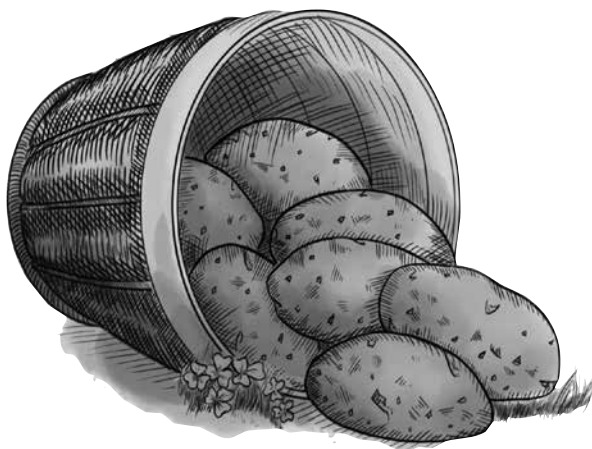


The Hopes and Dreams Series
Irish-Americans

Hungry No More

A story based on history



Second Edition

Tana Reiff

Illustrations by Tyler Stiene

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The cover and illustrations are by Tyler Stiene. The book was set and designed by Tana Reiff, consulting with A.A. Burrows, using the Adobe *Century Schoolbook* typeface for the text. This is a digital adaptation of one of the most popular faces of the twentieth century. Century's distinctive roman and italic fonts and its clear, dark strokes and serifs were designed, as the name suggests, to make schoolbooks easy to read. The display font used on the cover and titles is a 21st-century digital invention titled Telugu. It is designed to work on all digital platforms and with Indic scripts. Telugu is named for the Telugu people in southern India and their widely spoken language. This is a simple, strong, and interesting sans serif display font.

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The Hopes and Dreams Series

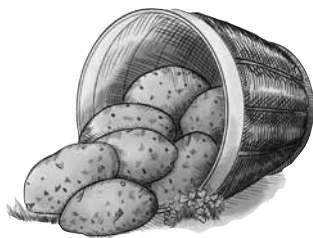
by Tana Reiff

The Magic Paper (Mexican-Americans)
For Gold and Blood (Chinese-Americans)
Nobody Knows (African-Americans)
Little Italy (Italian-Americans)
Hungry No More (Irish-Americans)
Sent Away (Japanese-Americans)
Two Hearts (Greek-Americans)

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1 The Old Days

Galway, Ireland, 1845

The story ended.
Everyone laughed.

“Those were
the good old days,”
said Father Patrick.
“I was young then
and you were children.”

“You are still
young at heart,”
Johnny McGee
said to the priest.

“Tell us more!”
said Mary McGee.
“I like to hear
your stories
when you visit.”
She was holding
her son Little John
on her lap.

“Yes, yes,”
said the old priest.
“Those were better days
in beautiful, green Ireland.
Every family
kept chickens
and a pig.
They sold eggs.
And when the pig
was fat enough,
they ate its meat.
They used every part
of that pig.
Life was not easy,
but we were never hungry.”

“But now ...”
Johnny looked down.
“Now there is
only the potato.”

“Only the potato,”
Father Patrick repeated.
“However,
the potato is good!
Boil a few potatoes
in a big pot
over the fire
and that is dinner!”

Johnny knew
all about potatoes.
He and Mary
paid rent for land
to farm potatoes.
They worked very hard
and grew lots of potatoes.
Year after year,
the potatoes grew.

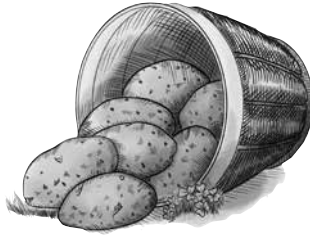
They were poor,
but they had potatoes.
The McGee family
ate potatoes
every day of the week.
The potato
was everything
in Ireland.

“Thank God
for potatoes!”
said Mary McGee.
“What would we do
without potatoes?”

“Amen,”
said Father Patrick.
“And have you heard
about old Mrs. Cleary?”

“Tell us!”
Mary begged him.
“You know
what everyone is doing!”

And Father Patrick
carried on.



2 Potato Problems

Each year,
Johnny and Mary
saved small potatoes.
In spring
they planted them
in the ground.
Before long,
green potato sprouts
popped up.

But one day
Johnny saw trouble.
The potato leaves
had black spots
all over them.

Johnny talked
to the other farmers.
They too were seeing
black spots.

Father Patrick
came to visit
that night.
“Everyone around here
has black potato plants,”
he said.
“I hear
it’s a blight.
The plants
are rotting!
The potato crop
could fail!
People are afraid.”

“We can get by,”
said Mary.
“We have enough potatoes
from last year.
We can get through
one bad year.”

And it was
a bad year.
The potato crop failed.
The blight
took everything.

The McGees got
no potatoes at all.

The potatoes
from last year
were not enough
to feed the family.
And they had to save some
to plant next year.
Johnny and Mary
were hungry,
and Little John cried
almost all the time.
They gave him
any real food
they could get.
They pretended
to eat with him.
When he wasn't looking,
they ate weeds
so their son
could have enough.
It was the only way
for them
to stay alive.

“Next year
will be better,”
Mary kept saying.

Johnny was glad
when planting time
came again.
There was hope
in the spring fields.
He and Mary
planted the little potatoes
they had saved.
Johnny watched
as the new shoots
came up in rows.
“It is good
to see green again,”
he said to Mary.

Johnny checked
the potatoes
every day.
One day
the plants were green.

The next day
they had a few spots.
The day after that,
they were black.

Johnny's heart
was heavy
when he told Mary
the bad news.

“What shall we do?”
Mary asked.
“We have
no old potatoes
to fall back on!”

“We are not
the only ones,”
said Johnny sadly.
“All of Ireland
is in trouble.”

For a short time,
England sent wheat
to Ireland.
“I'm glad

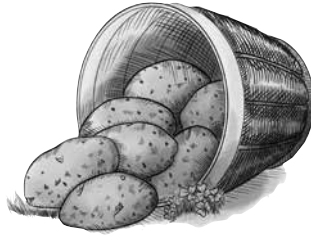
to have this wheat,”
said Mary.
“But we get
so little of it.
It doesn’t last long.”

And then
wheat from England
stopped coming.
Everyone was hungry.
People starved to death.
Some people
left for England,
Canada, and America.
People lay dead
by the side of the road.
Old Mrs. Cleary
stayed in her cottage.
All she could do
was wait to die.

“We are so hungry,”
Mary told Father Patrick.
“We worry
about our son.
We might die
just like the others.

Then what would become
of Little John?
What shall we do?"

“Keep the faith,
my children.
Please don't leave Ireland,”
begged the priest.
“Things will get better.
We must keep praying
that the potatoes
will come back.”



3 Leaving Ireland

“I’m sorry, Father,”
said Johnny
to the priest.
“Things are very bad —
gone too far.
Our mother country England
is not helping us.
If we stay in Ireland,
we will surely die.
We must think about
our little son.
There is nothing left
for us to eat.
We cannot wait
another year.
We are young.
We must get away.
We will go
to America.”

“I understand,”
said Father Patrick.

“But did you know
it costs less
to go to Canada?
Some people walk
from Canada to America.”

“What a long walk
that would be!”
said Johnny.
“We are not as strong
as we once were.
It would be better
to go to America.
The American ships
are better, too.
And an American ship
will take us
straight to Boston.”

So Johnny and Mary
did not pay their rent.
They used the money
to pay for their trip.
Money could not buy food.
But it could buy escape.

Father Patrick
saw them off.

“You have my blessing,”
he said.
He hugged each one
and patted them
on the head.
“God be with you.”

The McGee family
went to Liverpool, England,
across the Irish Sea.
Some Irish people
stayed in Liverpool.
But the McGees
boarded a ship.
It carried animals
as well as people.
Animal noises
followed them down
under the ship’s deck.
Cows.
Pigs.
Goats.
Even geese.
The animal smells
and the salt air
stayed in their noses
all the way to Boston.

The McGees were three
of 125 people
on that ship.
They made friends
with a young man
named Kennedy.
His family's farm
in Ireland
was not big enough.
One son
had to leave.
Kennedy lost
a coin toss.
He was the one
to go to America.
Everyone on the ship
had a story.
But Kennedy
told funny stories
that helped people
pass the time.

In 40 days
and 40 nights
the McGees
set foot in America.

Glossary

Definitions and examples of certain words and terms used in the story

Chapter 1 — The Old Days page 1

lap — When a person sits, it is the space formed on top of the legs. Children and pets can sit there.

She was holding her son Little John on her lap.

boil — To cook something by heating it in very hot water.

Boil a few potatoes in a big pot over the fire, and that is dinner!

carried on (to carry on) — To continue talking, especially while telling a story.

And Father Patrick carried on.

Chapter 2 — Potato Problems page 5

sprouts — A plant as it first appears on the surface of the ground.

Before long, green potato sprouts popped up.

blight — A plant disease.

rotting (to rot) — To change from being a healthy plant to becoming an unusable dying plant.

I hear it's a blight. The plants are rotting!

crop — An entire planting of an agricultural product.

The potato crop could fail!

get by — To survive with some difficulty.

"We can get by," said Mary.

get through — To survive with difficulty over a period of time.

We can get through one bad year.

pretended (to pretend) — To look like something is true, when it is not.

They pretended to eat with him.

weeds — Plants that are usually not useful.

They ate weeds.

fall back on — To have and use an extra supply of something in reserve.

We have no old potatoes to fall back on!

starved (to starve) — To die from not having food.

People starved to death.

Chapter 3 – Leaving Ireland page 12

saw them off (to see someone off) —
To go with someone to their departure.
Father Patrick saw them off.

blessing — A kind of prayer given as an approval.
“You have my blessing”

hugged (to hug) — to hold someone close to the body for a moment.
He hugged each one.

coin toss — A coin is thrown up in the air, and a decision is made on the basis of how it lands – “heads or tails.”
Kennedy lost a coin toss.

set foot — to arrive.
The McGees set foot in America.

Chapter 4 – Greenhorns in America page 16

greenhorn — A name for people who are inexperienced at something. Often they can be tricked.
“I’m here to help you greenhorns.”