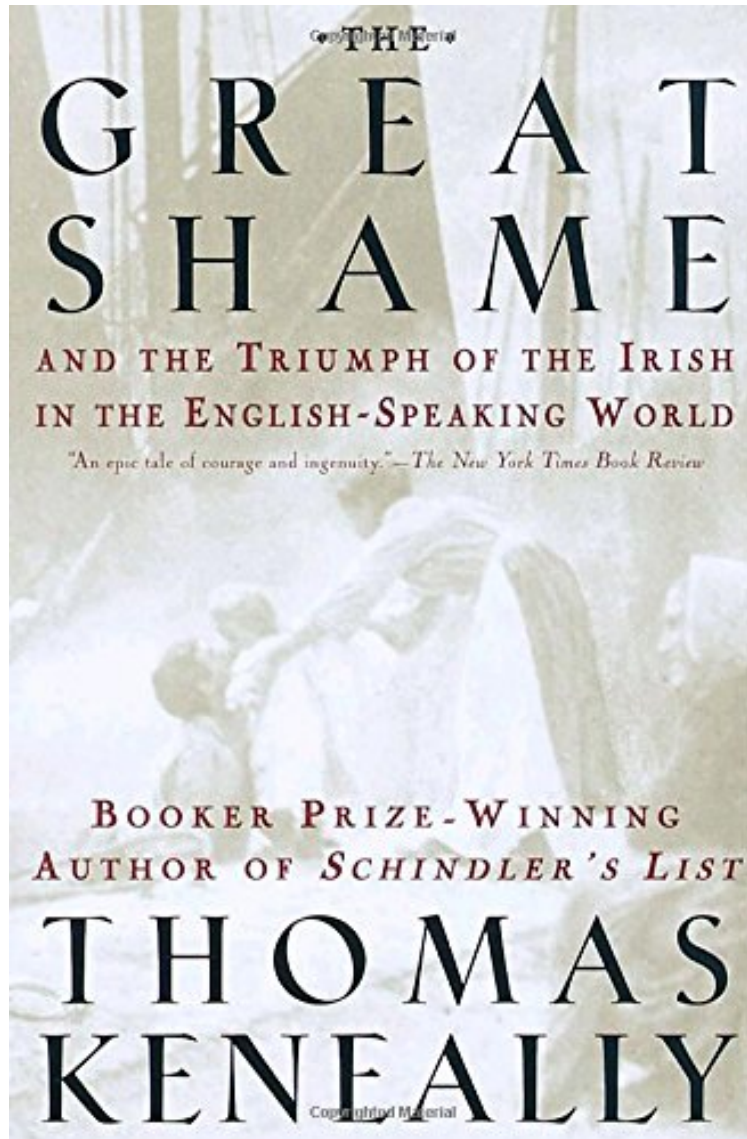


(Free and download) The Great Shame: And the Triumph of the Irish in the English-Speaking World

## The Great Shame: And the Triumph of the Irish in the English-Speaking World

Thomas Keneally

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**Thomas Keneally : The Great Shame: And the Triumph of the Irish in the English-Speaking World** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Great Shame: And the Triumph of the Irish in the English-Speaking World:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. History on 3 continents in the MOST interesting story. By bookfan22 Actually, if I had just been reading it, the review you request would be coming far too soon, as the book is

712 pages. But as it happens, I loved the book so much way back when I first read it a couple of years ago, that I wanted to give my now 16 yr old granddaughter a copy, so that's why I ordered this one. It is a fantastic compilation of the Irish story, and informs a LOT about how Australia got settled. The conflict in the Civil War with members of the same Irish family on opposing sides, etc. A beautifully written, deeply historical achievement, in a "can't wait to get back to it" form - so intriguing. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. THE GREAT SHAME By vdwilliams The author provides an epic story of the introduction of the Irish in the land "down under", mostly as imprisoned felons. How the British mistreated them, using them as virtual slaves in open-ended sentences, with no rights at all. Keneally reveals the triumph of these people over their tragic separation from hearth and home, from families, wives, husbands, children and the towns and villages of their homeland. And how many of these outcasts from society went on to great fame and glory, especially their contribution to American and Australian history. He tells the story in loving and informed detail. This is a lengthy book. I didn't want it to come to a conclusion. Entitled "The Great Shame", it could just as easily be called "The Great Triumph". A romp through history, Irish and Australian. Written with a great deal of love for the subject, Keneally knows how to build fascinating characters and to set them in a locale as interesting and wide as is the continent of Australia and the wider world. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. What a Book By G. Goltz What an incredible job Mr. Keneally did researching this book, just the credits He gives for sources and help for researching fill a couple pages. It involves the History of Ireland, Australia, and America. He must have felt so relieved to finish this book. It is the best read I've had and helps Me to more understand My 1/2 Irish Self.! Get It.

In *The Great Shame*, Thomas Keneally--the bestselling, Booker Prize-winning author of *Schindler's List*--combines the authority of a brilliant historian and the narrative grace of a great novelist to present a gripping account of the Irish diaspora. The nineteenth century saw Ireland lose half of its population to famine, emigration, or deportation to penal colonies in Australia--often for infractions as common as stealing food. Among the victims of this tragedy were Thomas Keneally's own forebearers, and they were his inspiration to tell the story of the Irish who struggled and ultimately triumphed in Australia and North America. Relying on rare primary sources--including personal letters, court transcripts, ship manifests, and military documents--Keneally offers new and important insights into the impact of the Irish in exile. The result is a vivid saga of heroes and villains, from Great Famine protesters to American Civil War generals to great orators and politicians.

.com The Booker Prize-winning *Schindler's List* (on which Steven Spielberg based his Oscar-winning film) demonstrated that Thomas Keneally could make history as compelling as any novel. His latest book, *The Great Shame*, expands upon the achievement of his earlier fiction. This is more than just the story of the Keneally family tree, transported from Ireland to Australia in the 19th-century. It is the story of how Irish men and women came to be dispersed all over the world, and what they made of their lives in their new homes. It is the epic history of a whole people. *The Great Shame* is hypnotically readable, partly because Keneally weaves his many narrative strands so expertly and touches his story with many moments of beautiful writing, but also because it is all, even at its most extraordinary, completely true. The result is astonishingly vivid. What *The Great Shame* most resembles is a classic 19th-century novel: Dickens, say, or George Eliot. Readers avidly follow Keneally's characters through their successes and their trials, until the very last sentence in the book when, like a master from the classic age of the novel, Keneally pays tribute to "the piquant blood and potent ghosts of the characters to whom we now bid goodbye." --Adam Roberts From *Publishers Weekly* Keneally prefaced his Booker Prize-winning *Schindler's List* by noting that he had chosen to tell the true story of Oskar Schindler in novel form partially because "the novelist's craft is the only one which I can lay claim to." In the years between the publication of that novel and this remarkable new book, it appears that Keneally has banished any lingering uncertainty about venturing into nonfiction. But he hasn't left his novelist's craft behind. Combining a facility for storytelling with painstaking research, he has produced a lively, narrative history that is a model of the form. His subject is the plight of the Irish from the 19th century into the early 20th, and the experience of the Irish diaspora in the far corners of the world. In the 19th century, while Europe saw the emergence of a number of independent states, Ireland remained under the thumb of the British crown. By the end of the century, famine and emigration had reduced its population to little more than half of the 1841 total. Keneally enters this history by looking at his Australian homeland and tracing the history of his own family's Irish ancestry. Beginning with a poor farmer named Hugh Larkin (from whom Keneally's wife is descended) who was "transported" from Ireland in the 1830s for a vaguely political show of discontent toward his landlord, Keneally quickly sets the sociopolitical stage. Book I of *The Great Shame* follows the experience of Larkin (and through him, thousands of others like him) as a convict who ultimately earned his freedom and the opportunity to build a new life in a new land. Keneally simultaneously chronicles the rise and fall of Young Ireland, a group of elite, younger Irish statesmen who pushed for a more aggressive approach to independence than did Daniel O'Connell, who led the fight for Catholic Emancipation in Great Britain and Ireland. Among the ranks of Young Ireland were inflammatory writer and editor John Mitchel and future American Civil War hero Thomas Francis Meagher. Book II follows Meagher to the U.S., where he

commanded the Union's famed Irish Brigade and introduced a new group of Irish insurrectionists, the Fenians, among whose number was one John Keneally, the author's ancestor. Keneally suggests several reasons for the "shame" of the title: failure, survival, injustice. But in capturing the resilient spirit of his subjects, and rendering their story with such a true and stirring touch, his book is a triumph, an invigorating, sprawling history of a people who flourished, as Irish, outside of Ireland. History Book Club main selection; author tour. (Sept.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal An Australian, Keneally has written frequently on Australian themes but is best known as the author of *Schindler's List*, which won a Booker Prize and upon which Spielberg's movie was based. In this title, Keneally is drawn to an exploration of the Irish diaspora of the 19th century, in part through recounting the story of an ancestor of his wife, one Hugh Larkin, who in his twenties was exiled for life to Australia, leaving behind a wife and two sons, who later managed to join him. Keneally discusses the famous and the ordinary folk caught up in that dispersion to both Australia and North America. Well documented, written, and illustrated, this substantial work does require some effort, which is rewarded by a broad and deep view of the topic. Highly recommended for academic and larger libraries. -A Charles V. Cowling, Drake Memorial Lib., Brockport, NY Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.