

Book Review

The Diary of Macy Allen: In Search of Myself, Ray Hazel

Readers are often fascinated by the story of immigrants coming to our country and the challenges they face when trying to create a new life for themselves. In the book, **The Diary of Macy Allen: In Search of Myself** by Raymond Hazel, readers have the unique experience of a story about a real person that was written using actual diary entries, letters, and writings by the subject herself. Hazel weaves these through his tale of a young girl traveling from Ireland in 1895 towards the promises of a better life in America. The story is about how Macy is forced to traverse the strange world often on her own, or with opposition from society and the adults she encounters. The story plays out with many historical events of the early 1900s serving as a backdrop to Macy's journey. Reading Macy's own words along the way give the story an intimacy, and a sense of Macy's inner strength.

The story explores the people who enter and help shape the woman Macy becomes. She forms strong bonds with the people who give her guidance and offer safe havens when she is overwhelmed by things that are cruel and ugly. She encounters people who make life difficult for her, but she learns to stand up for herself and trust her own instincts. Through the telling of Macy's life story, sometimes with the input of Macy's own words, the reader experiences her growth, along with the pain and sorrow and the joy and triumphs. Macy Allen is a person worth getting to know.

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