



Praise for Christopher Klein's WHEN THE IRISH INVADED CANADA

“Clearly an enthusiast of Irish nationalism, Klein manages to keep a straight face as he narrates this opera bouffe of delusional and incompetent commanders sponsored by bitterly competing groups riddled with spies, leading tiny armies against the combined forces of the British, Canadian, and American governments...The author offers a thoroughly researched and engagingly written account of the leaders of America’s feuding Irish émigré groups, earnest patriots all, whose clashing egos and strategies kept their groups splintered and weak...A well-presented, little-known sidebar to the struggle for Irish independence.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“*When the Irish Invaded Canada* is a sincere and eloquent book, as Christopher Klein tells a heroic and tragic story from a more innocent, less cynical era.”

— **Kerby Miller**, author of the Pulitzer finalist *Emigrants and Exiles: Ireland and the Irish Exodus to North America*

“Christopher Klein's fresh telling of this story is an important landmark in both Irish and American history.”

— **James M. McPherson**, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The War That Forged a Nation* and *Battle Cry of Freedom*

“Christopher Klein has written one of the great untold stories of Irish, Canadian, and American history...Vivid, dramatic, and insightful, Klein delivers a book stranger than fiction but more gripping and exciting.”

—**Niall O'Dowd**, author of *Lincoln and the Irish* and founder of IrishCentral

“Christopher Klein finds the genuine honor in this foolhardy exploit and also the humor. Any book that contains the following authentic historical quotation deserves to be read: ‘I regret to inform you that you are not going to be hanged.’ A fine forgotten slice of Irish rebellion that should appeal to oppressed people everywhere, and to those oppressors finally ready to seek salvation.”

—**Richard Zacks**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Island of Vice* and *Chasing the Last Laugh*

“Christopher Klein brings to life an almost unbelievable - and yet completely forgotten - episode from post-Civil War America. If you're wondering why the Irish would invade Canada, the answers are here in this exciting, well-told narrative filled with colorful characters.”

— **Terry Golway**, author of *Frank and Al* and *Machine Made*

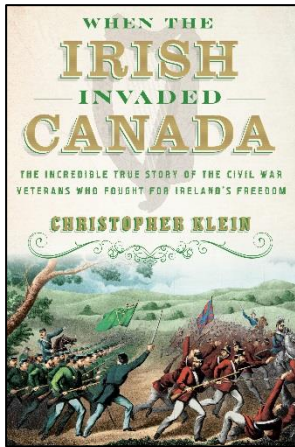
“This is a surprising and fascinating book. With a great eye for detail and illustrative flourish, Klein tells the riveting story of brave men who believed deeply in the cause of Irish independence, and were willing to lay down their lives to achieve it. At turns heroic, bumbling, comic, idealistic, prideful, pigheaded, and star crossed, these men and their dramatic actions are an important, though all but forgotten, part of the American and Irish experience.”

— **Eric Jay Dolin**, author of *Black Flags, Blue Waters: The Epic History of America's Most Notorious Pirates*

WHEN THE IRISH INVADED CANADA

The Incredible True Story of the Civil War Veterans Who Fought for Ireland's Freedom

CHRISTOPHER KLEIN



In the same vein as Timothy Egan's *The Immortal Irishman*, Christopher Klein dissects the fascinating story of a raucous band of Irish-Americans determined to free their homeland in **WHEN THE IRISH INVADED CANADA: The Incredible True Story of the Civil War Veterans Who Fought for Ireland's Freedom (Doubleday; 3/12/2019; \$28.95)**. The story behind the infamous 1866 Fenian Raids – never before told from the Irish-American perspective – seems implausible (and whiskey-fueled), but ultimately is an inspiring tale of heroic patriotism. Inspired by a fervent love for Ireland and a burning desire to free her from British rule, members of the Fenian Brotherhood – a semi-secret band of Irish-American revolutionaries – made plans to seize the British province of Canada and hold it hostage until the independence of Ireland was secured.

When the Fenian Raids began, Ireland had been subjugated by Britain for over seven hundred years. The British had taken away Ireland's religion, culture, and language, and when the Great Hunger struck, they even took away her food, exporting it to other realms of the British Empire. Those who escaped the famine and fled to America were inspired by the revolutionary actions of the Civil War to fight for their own country's freedom. After receiving a promise from President Andrew Johnson and Secretary of State William Seward not to interfere with any military plans, the Fenian Brotherhood - which included a one-armed Civil War hero, an English spy posing as French sympathizer, an Irish revolutionary who faked his own death to escape capture, and a Fenian leader turned British loyalist – began to implement their grand plan to secure Ireland's freedom. They executed daring prison breaks from an Australian penal colony, conducted political assassinations and engaged in double-dealings, managing to seize a piece of Canada - if only for three days.

Inspiring, lively, and often undeniably comic, **WHEN THE IRISH INVADED CANADA** is a tale of fighting for what's right in the face of impossible odds.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: CHRISTOPHER KLEIN is the author of four books, including *Strong Boy: The Life and Times of John L. Sullivan*, *America's First Sports Hero*. A frequent contributor to *History.com*, Christopher has also written for *The Boston Globe*, *The New York Times*, *National Geographic Traveler*, *Harvard Magazine*, *Smithsonian.com*, and *AmericanHeritage.com*. He lives in Andover, Massachusetts.

For more information, please visit www.doubleday.com
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Veterans Who Fought for Ireland's Freedom**
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