



Light a Penny Candle

By Maeve Binchy

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Light a Penny Candle By Maeve Binchy

Beloved author Maeve Binchy's first published novel, an engrossing coming of age tale about the incredible bond of friendship.

To escape the chaos of London during World War II, young Elizabeth White is sent to live a safer life in the small Irish town of Kilgarret. It is there, in the crowded, chaotic O'Connor household, that she meet Aisling—a girl who soon becomes her very best friend, sharing her pet kitten and secretly teaching her the intricacies of Catholicism.

Aisling's boldness brings Elizabeth out of her proper shell; later, her support carries Elizabeth through the painful end of her parents' chilly marriage. In return, Elizabeth's friendship helps Aisling endure her own unsatisfying marriage to a raging alcoholic. Through the years, they come to believe they can overcome any conflict, conquer any hardship—as long as they have each other. Now they're about to find out if they're right...

“A sumptuous saga.”—*Harper's*

“Wonderful...a novel that could be mistaken for life.”—*New York Daily News*

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Light a Penny Candle By Maeve Binchy Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #146264 in Books
- Brand: Binchy, Maeve
- Published on: 2007-11-06
- Released on: 2007-11-06
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.20" h x 1.20" w x 5.50" l, 1.40 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 592 pages

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

The chaos of World War II London sends preteen Elizabeth White to the safety of Ireland and into the lives of the much larger and emotional O'Connor family. The enduring friendship she finds with her counterpart, Aisling, forms the framework of this novel, offering clear contrasts between the two families and countries. The early chapters of Binchy's 1982 debut novel are engagingly humorous, filled with solid characterizations of these two very different but compatible adolescents. The girls sustain their friendship and distinct personalities through regular letters, but unfortunately they must grow up and the novel may strain under the conventionality of the genre and some inconsistency, perhaps due to Binchy's inexperience as an author at the time she wrote the original story. Her cousin Kate Binchy reads the book well, capturing the innocence, yearning, and growth of the girls. Recommended for larger fiction collections.

-Joyce Kessel, *Villa Maria Coll., Buffalo*

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Review

Praise for Maeve Binchy and *Light a Penny Candle*

"Extraordinary."—*Philadelphia Inquirer*

"An Irish *Thorn Birds*...complete and rewarding."—*Newsday*

"A find...so rich and engrossing you can forget your own problems."—*Glamour*

"A remarkably gifted writer...a wonderful student of human nature."—*The New York Times Book Review*

"Reading one of Maeve Binchy's novels is like coming home."—*The Washington Post*

"Binchy is a grand storyteller in the finest Irish tradition...she writes from the heart."—*The Cleveland Plain Dealer*

"Binchy's genius is transforming storytelling into art."—*San Francisco Examiner & Chronicle*

"Binchy's tales combine warmth and spunk in a quintessentially Celtic way...In the field of women's popular fiction, the Dublin storyteller sticks out like a faultless solitaire on a Woolworth's jewelry counter."—*Chicago Tribune*

About the Author

Maeve Binchy was born in County Dublin and educated at the Holy Child convent in Killiney and at University College, Dublin. After a spell as a teacher she joined *The Irish Times*. Her first novel, *Light a Penny Candle*, was published in 1982, and she went on to write more than twenty books, all of them bestsellers. Several have been adapted for film and television, most notably *Circle of Friends* and *Tara Road*, which was an Oprah's Book Club selection. She was married to writer and broadcaster Gordon Snell for thirty-five years. She passed away in 2012 at the age of seventy-two.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Maria Kraus:

Do you considered one of people who can't read gratifying if the sentence chained inside straightway, hold on guys this kind of aren't like that. This Light a Penny Candle book is readable simply by you who hate the straight word style. You will find the details here are arrange for enjoyable studying experience without leaving perhaps decrease the knowledge that want to provide to you. The writer involving Light a Penny Candle content conveys prospect easily to understand by many people. The printed and e-book are not different in the written content but it just different by means of it. So , do you continue to thinking Light a Penny Candle is not loveable to be your top checklist reading book?

Diana Saffold:

The book Light a Penny Candle will bring you to the new experience of reading any book. The author style to elucidate the idea is very unique. In the event you try to find new book to learn, this book very suited to you. The book Light a Penny Candle is much recommended to you to read. You can also get the e-book from your official web site, so you can quicker to read the book.

Don Gonzales:

Spent a free time to be fun activity to do! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book could be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the reserve untitled Light a Penny Candle can be great book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

Donald Dickens:

Many people spending their time frame by playing outside along with friends, fun activity along with family or just watching TV all day long. You can have new activity to invest your whole day by reading through a book. Ugh, you think reading a book can actually hard because you have to use the book everywhere? It alright you can have the e-book, delivering everywhere you want in your Cell phone. Like Light a Penny Candle which is getting the e-book version. So , try out this book? Let's see.

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