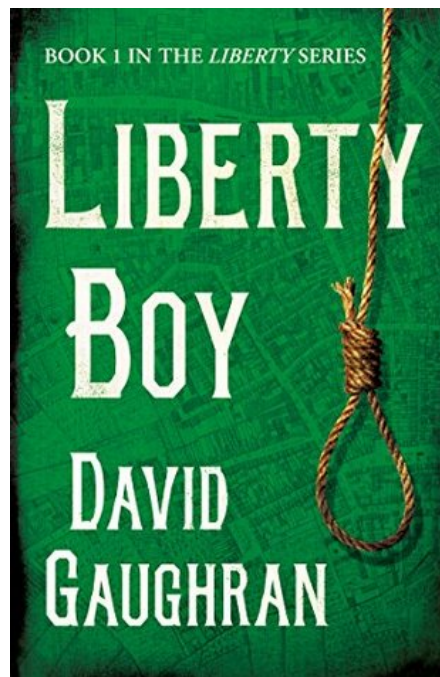




Liberty Boy (The Liberty Series #1)

David Gaughran

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Dublin has been on a knife-edge since the failed rebellion in July, and Jimmy O'Flaherty suspects a newcomer to The Liberties--Kitty Doyle--is mixed up in it. She accuses him of spying for the English, and he thinks she's a reckless troublemaker.

All Jimmy wants is to earn enough coin to buy passage to America. But when the English turn his trading patch into a gallows, Jimmy finds himself drawn into the very conflict he's spent his whole life avoiding.

Liberty Boy (The Liberty Series #1) Details

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Carol Arnold says

Good story

I do not have enough knowledge of Irish history to appreciate the historical part of this book. It seemed that the author assume the reader would have at least some knowledge. The historical characters were simply put into the narrative without any introduction. It was even quite a way into the book before I figured out the timing of the Irish rebellion. I did not care for all the f-words so am not interested in continuing the series.

Bruce Perrin says

The Historical Context is Excellent; the Fictional Story, Not So Much

Historical fiction is, obviously, part history and part story. Liberty Boy did well in creating the look and feel of the period (the British oppression and Robert Emmet's uprising in 1803 Ireland), but the accompanying fiction had the feel of a formulaic romance. I was hoping for more.

Liberty Boy conveyed a feeling of helplessness and oppression that seems appropriate to the period. The nature of home life, work, social interactions, and political intrigue in this part of the world and time all felt true. Simply put, the book made a period in history that I knew little about come to life, as good historical fiction will often do.

The pacing of the story was OK to a bit slow with some repetition or unnecessary emphasis, and yet, the book was a quick read. Perhaps that's because it's relatively short. Character development was good. I particularly enjoyed Kitty Doyle, who is brash, aggressive, and daring, which of course, stirs the pot in her world. Development of Jimmy O'Flaherty, on the other hand, started well, but by the end, he seemed both too good and too rudderless to be real.

The plot that went with the history, however, was the primary letdown for me. In general, it followed a well-worn recipe for romances – keep the potential young lovers apart through a series of misunderstandings, poor timing, and chance events to build emotional tension. And then... Well, to finish that thought would give away the ending, but it's one of the two possible – they get together or they don't. But either way, the storyline already felt stale.

So, while the romance was somewhat trite and predictable, the feel of the period comes through at nearly a gut level, making Liberty Boy a worthwhile read.

MK says

Having read Gretta Curran Browne's Liberty Trilogy, Book 1 of which covered Robert Emmet's failed 1803 Rising (Tread Softly on My Dreams), I had a familiarity with the references to the riots on Thomas Street and executions in front of St. Catherine's Church, that this book looks at, by way of the perspective of a poor

young man, living on Thomas Street, trying to eke out a living and keep his head out of the politics of the day, who gets caught up against his will by the construction of a gallows in front of St. Catherine's Church, which is the spot he trades in each day (trying to earn passage to America to get out of Ireland).

The story, despite the backdrop and setting, is easy reading. The rebels of Wicklow, Michael Dwyer, the horrific 'Walking Gallows', a giant of a man who 'hung' peasants at will, by 'hanging' them over his back and choking them to death, Anne Devlin, Major Sirr, and a host of others are all referenced in the background, and even the executions as they begin, are all part of the setting and background. The horror of Emmet's execution, the beheading, the dogs lapping up the blood, all of it are brought into vivid, horrifying realness, however. The 'Walking Gallows' story, too, actually.

In any event, despite the background and setting, the story is fairly surface, until it's not. A worthwhile read, looking forward to the next installments.

Carlos Mock says

Liberty Boy by David Gaughran

The Irish had a long struggle towards their goal of gaining Independence. Much has been written about the 1916 Easter Uprising, however, David Gaughran's new book is the first of a series that follows the life of Jimmy O'Flaherty and Kitty Doyle. Set in the background of Robert Emmet's abortive rebellion against British rule in 1803, the author introduces us to our protagonists. Jimmy is a trader, he wants nothing to do with the United Irishmen or their rebellion. Following the defeat of 1798, where Jimmy's father died, he has set his mind on raising enough money to emigrate to America, where his cousin Donal has already set camp. But fate intervenes and Jimmy meets Kitty, with whom he falls in love. Just like many other historical fiction novels, the guy who least wanted a piece of the action in a revolution ends up right in the middle of it.

The book is narrated from the third person point of view from our two heroes. The prose is almost poetic and the plot flows easily. The characters are alive and engaging. I read it in two days. Could not put it down.

Looking forward to the next installment!

Laurie Boris says

I enjoyed the history, and how Gaughran wove it into the story. But the plot rambled a bit, there were some parts where I felt a little lost, and I felt a bit removed from the characters and their plight. A couple of lit-fic cliches bothered me, too. Overall, not a bad read, but I'd hoped for more.

Mercia McMahon says

The story never quite grabbed me. The novel suffers from telling too much history and not focusing on the fiction, but a decent enough skim read.

J.J. Toner says

This is a wonderful historical novel. A love story, set against a background of the brutal and unjust way the British ruled over the Irish in 1803. The main character makes a living from a stall in a Dublin market (the "Glib") until the British erect a scaffold in the market in order to hang a number of rebellious United Irishmen. It is only when he meets a young woman with political convictions that he becomes involved in the struggle for Irish freedom. I loved all the interesting details about the Liberties in Dublin in the early 19th Century. One of the best books I have read in the past 3 years. Highly recommended.

John Rigoli says

Liberty Boy was a fun read. The character arcs were finely drawn. My background is theater, so I am particularly keen on seeing a character grow and change (something often missing in novels) Jimmy O'Flaherty moves from being a kid who keeps his head down and his nose out of trouble into an aware young man (woke, as the kids say)... as the ongoing Irish rebellions and British hangings give him no real choice in the matter. The book was full of surprises, and I am eager to read the next installment.

T.B. Markinson says

Enjoyed reading and hope the next book in the series will be out soon.

Patrick says

Exciting Irish historical novel involving two young lovers against the backdrop of the Robert Emmet uprising of 1803. Great attention to the geography and streetnames of labyrinthine Georgian Dublin. The novel reminded me of Kidnapped by Robert Louis Stephenson. Really enjoyed this and look forward to the second instalment of the trilogy. Mr Gaughran knows his Dublin and her history and certainly knows how to plot.

Ankitaa says

An engrossing story told from the perspective of the streets in the backdrop of Irish rebellion 1803, this keeps you on edge. Our protagonist Jimmy O'Flaherty, a young Irishman and the son of a martyred patriot has just one dream: to make enough money to leave with his mother and start a new life in America. And one day, he bumps into Kitty Doyle and whoosh! Everything Jimmy ever thought, ever desired gets tossed.

The character development is strong, especially Kitty's. She reminded me of a friend of mine; Smart, brave and headstrong. The plot is obviously laced with romance (cliched) to dive in. The author has done a brilliant job with setting up the background, for it was so vivid and perfectly detailed. It could have been a quick read, but the reading slump. Sigh! For someone with minimal knowledge of the Irish History, this was engaging

read and I am looking forward to the next in the series.

John Martin says

David Gaughran is known to me as the writer of killer books on Indie publishing, but I was curious about his fiction writing so I gave this short historical novel a try. I wasn't disappointed.

Liberty Boy is set in a time of turmoil in Irish history. After a deal of research, Gaughran weaves a fictional story into historical fact. He captures the sights, sounds and smells in a good story-telling style. It's almost cinematic.

The book gets a bit gruesome in bits, but that accords with the horrible reality at the time.

I did anticipate the ending, but if you know some of the history that's probably a risk you take with historical fiction.

Charles Ray says

Dublin is on edge after the failed rebellion against British rule. Jimmy O'Flaherty is keeping his head down, just trying to make enough money to buy passage for him and his mother to America. Then he meets Kitty Doyle, who he thinks is a trouble maker, while, she thinks he's spying for the English. The problem is, they fall in love.

Liberty Boy by David Gaughran is a story of English-Irish conflict from a street-level perspective. Chocked full of the history of the time, with gritty dialogue and entertaining characters. Interesting historical fiction.

Joseph Finley says

"*Liberty Boy*" is a well-paced, beautifully written novel that puts the reader on the edge of a tension-filled uprising in early nineteenth century Dublin. After crushing a violent rebellion a few years before, the English soldiers are determined to keep order by any means necessary. And they're making a habit of hanging rebel prisoners in Dublin's public square.

Into this tension comes Jimmy O'Flaherty, a young Irishman and the son of a famous and martyred patriot. Jimmy, however, wants nothing to do with the rebellion or his father's past. His only desire is to scrape up enough money to book passage to New York and get the hell out of Ireland. Everything looks to be going as planned until he meets a pretty girl named Kitty Doyle.

As much as I empathized with Jimmy, it was Kitty who stole the proverbial show. She's a brave, strong-willed, and smart-mouthed heroine who is more than just a sympathizer for the Irish patriots. She's also Jimmy's inevitable love interest and the cause of much of the story's conflict, dragging him into the brewing rebellion he hoped to run from.

At only 261 pages, "*Liberty Boy*" is a quick, but satisfying read. Gaughran gives the reader a great feel for nineteenth century Dublin, with its many breweries and the smell of burnt hops filling the air. He also has a true knack when it comes to dialogue. The novel is the first in a series, and ends with a cliffhanger of sorts. But fortunately, the sequel, "*Dieman's Land*," is coming out soon, so readers won't have to wait too long to learn what happens next.

Elisabeth Zguta says

Heartfelt drama- in the moment - Irish tale

If you love to read true characters who reflect historic moments, look no further. This tale in many ways is too true, as we walk the Irish streets and hear, smell and feel the anguish of the times, as well as the hope for a better future. This is also a romance, new love struggles for a breath, while conflict tears them apart.

I am looking forward to book two to learn what unfolds for the Liberty Boy, hoping for some splinter of happiness from within the gaps of reality.

This book is Very well written, vivid and engaging - definitely a page turner.
