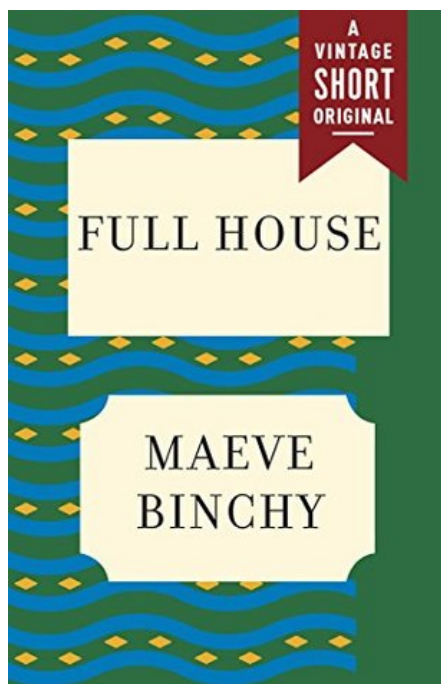




Full House (A Vintage Short Original)

Maeve Binchy

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Full House (A Vintage Short Original) Maeve Binchy
A Vintage Shorts “Short Story Month” Original Selection

They hadn’t intended it to be a full house. Dee and Liam had thought that their children would leave home one by one and come to see them on weekends. Wouldn’t that be nice? But Helen had never left; Rosie got married but not for long; Anthony writes songs and will be a sensation someday. And Dee wonders what she did wrong. Instead of enjoying her “old age,” she is taking care of everyone else. When a crisis occurs Dee takes charge and decides that something has to change—much to everyone’s surprise.

Beloved storyteller and internationally bestselling author Maeve Binchy left a treasure trove of unpublished short stories after her death. “Full House” is everything we’ve come to expect from Binchy’s work—a world of charm, joy and sorrow, where we return again and again to be instructed and warmed. She received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the British Book Awards in 1999 and the Irish PEN/A.T. Cross Award in 2007 and is the author of many bestselling books including *Maeve’s Times*, *Chestnut Street*, and *A Week in Winter*.

An eBook short.

Full House (A Vintage Short Original) Details

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Author : Maeve Binchy

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Genre : Fiction, Short Stories, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Contemporary, Cultural, Ireland, Romance

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From Reader Review Full House (A Vintage Short Original) for online ebook

Jennifer Garcia says

This was a very short story, one I would think that Binchy would not be able to complete in so few pages because of the intricate way she weaves so many lives and stories into one plot line. But she did it. This short story did not have a million and one lives interweaved, but it did show the lives of one family and a few of their friends. Did I feel satisfied with the ending? Yes. Did I want more? I always do, so nothings changed there.

This story felt so close to home to me. Dee, a wife and mother of three adult children works with her friend as a cleaning lady in her own business. She works hard and long, but still has to come home and iron, cook, clean, supply the food, and pay the for all of it. Her husband loses his job right at the beginning of the book and Dee just loses it. All her aggravation with her children being lazy mooches just built up too much and she decides it's time to set some rules.

She no longer cooks for them, tells them if they want to stay they must pay rent, and they can iron their own clothes. Well, those spoiled adult children were insulted that they'd have to do so in their own home, so they all left and realized how easy they had it. They realized how much they took advantage of and tried not to be bitter with how they were basically kicked out of their home.

Dee rented their rooms and supplemented their income to some great girls so that she and her husband could go on their twenty-fifth anniversary trip to Sicily as well as have enough money to pay bills.

It was such a great storyline and I related to a time when I had adult children living in my home and not pulling their weight. Binchy did a wonderful job getting the message across in so few words.

I'd recommend this for anyone who needs a short read.

Bev Taylor says

sometimes the people u love most r the most difficult to live with

dee lives with her husband and her 3 'grown up children'. she runs her own cleaning company with a friend but everything changes when her husband loses his job

their children expect her to do everything for them and do or pay nothing in return. well this has to change sharpish

they do not know what has hit them but as reality kicks in it makes them realise what they appreciate most and they finally grow up and see the real world

a quick reads that will take u an hour. fine if u like this kind of thing but i really like to get into a novel which requires time

bev

Esil says

Thank you to Netgalley and the publisher for an opportunity to read Full House by Maeve Binchy. What can I say? We all have our guilty pleasures. One of mine is the occasional novel by Maeve Binchy. It brings me back to lazy summers in my late teens when I devoured her books. It also reminds me of my father who always read very serious books about history, politics and law, punctuated by the occasional mystery, thriller or novel by Anne Tyler or Maeve Binchy (I know there is no comparison between these two authors...) "Smart treacle", "compassionate pap"? Not sure what to call her style, but her books still fit the bill as a occasional "comfort reading". Full House appears to have been published a few years ago. It is short and focuses on a middle aged couple trying to get their adult kids to finally leave home. It was a bit on the short side so it read like a story with a single minded theme -- but it was still classic Binchy and a good reminder to pick up one of her books from time to time.

Val Penny says

Maeve Binchy was born on 28 May 1940 in Dalkey, County Dublin, Ireland, the eldest of four children. Her parents were very positive and provided her with a happy childhood. She studied at University College, Dublin and was a teacher for a while. She also loved travelling and this was how she found her niche as a writer. Binchy married Gordon Snell who is also a published writer. Her books deal with predominantly with relationship problems and many of them are set in the past in Ireland. She passed away on 30 July 2012, at the age of 72, having suffered from Alzheimer's Disease before her death.

I cannot remember how I came across this book. My friend, Evelyn had certainly recommended Maeve Binchy to me. However, I do not think she mentioned any particular book. Full House is part of the Quick Reads series so it is a short, entertaining, story, although unrealistic at times.

Full House revolves around Dee, the mother of a family comprising her husband and three adult children all of whom still live in the family home. However, when her husband loses his job Dee decides that this has to change. Her children are taken aback by this as they have learnt over the years that their parents are happy to provide board and lodging free of charge, without them taking any responsibility for domestic chores. Rosie moved out when she got married, but it did not work out, so she is back with her parents. Helen is a teacher but does not earn enough for a place of her own. Anthony writes songs and is just waiting for the day when someone will pay him for them.

So far, so good, the context is completely believable but the solution to Dee's dilemma is a bit too convenient. She manages to completely change years of behaviour, as well as her husband's attitude to their life, in a matter of weeks. Perhaps this is a necessity because of the book being a Quick Read! So solutions conveniently materialize and people adapt surprisingly quickly to the new ideas. So many people have told me that they enjoy Maeve Binchy books that I had really hoped to enjoy this one. However, I did not. The author may be an excellent story teller but perhaps the format did not lend itself to her style of writing. On the basis of this, I would not rush to read another book by Maeve Binchy.

Mandolin says

Dear Ms. Binchy,

How I miss your words. Your way of writing that captured the very essence of family life with all its imperfections and blessings has always touched my heart and I often find myself thinking back to your best works, remembering the characters whose lives touched mine. This last unread book, so very small, has been sitting on my bedside table, tempting me since your death to pick it up and read it. I've waited for a while, though, wanting to put off this last moment of savoring your wisdom for the first time. Today was the perfect day to finally open its cover and jump in. In this short story, you gave a wonderful look into the heart of a mother who must learn, after years of coddling, to give her children a dose of tough love. The effect on her family - and her marriage - is dramatic and touching, as your writing always is. I only wish it had been longer, for I read it in an hour and was so sad to put it down. I will always miss your magical pen, Maeve, but I'm thankful for the way you blessed my life with it.

A Grateful Reader

Toni Carter says

Absolutely LOVED this short read. Was all over in one night because I could not put it down. After hearing that Maeve Binchy passed away yesterday, I realised I had not read any of her stuff. Great story about changes in family dynamics during economic hardship. RIP Maeve Binchy.

Marianne says

Full House is a novella by Maeve Binchy in the Quick Reads series. The story centres on Dee and Liam Nolan, residents of St. Jarlath's Cres in Dublin, an address with which Binchy fans will be familiar. Dee and Liam have two adult daughters and a son, all still living at home, none of whom contribute financially or practically to the running of the household. Rosie was married to Ronan for all of what seemed like 10 minutes before she returned home with a list of complaints about married life; Helen is a teacher with grand if impractical ideas for her students; Anthony is waiting for the songs he writes to make him famous, spends every minute listening to his iPod and has never had a job. It's true that Dee and Liam have made a rod for their own backs, but when Liam loses his job, Dee decides things have to change. Binchy takes everyday situations and brings them alive with her skilful dialogue, character interactions and original plot. Fans will welcome cameo appearances by Lizzie Scarlett, Maud and Marco, Simon Scarlett, Noel, Faith and Frankie Lynch and Fiona Carroll. Short but definitely worthwhile.

Jeroen says

waarom kan ik niet gewoon niet beginnen in een boek dat duidelijk ni de moeite is...

Becky Gust says

Such a delightful short story! So simple. So . . . Maeve. I must admit I was a bit sad when I reached the end. I have almost all her books and love each one of them. I found this one in the library yesterday.

I am sad she has passed away. I've never found an author who is able to bring her characters to life like she could. She brilliantly wove them all through her stories. Every character was like seeing an old friend whom you haven't seen for years. But yet, you pick up with them as if you just saw them yesterday.

I would definitely recommend this one to anyone -- especially fans of Maeve!

Michelle says

I read this book while waiting for my parents to finish cooking Sunday Family Dinner. My mom had only bought it at Costco that morning. It is a very quick and easy read. Not my usual style, to be honest, its the first Maeve Binchy book I've ever read, but decided to give it a go in between all the vampires, warriors, and fairy tales.

I enjoyed it.

I wasn't expecting to, but I did.

A hard-working mother of 3 grown children is tired of them taking advantage of her and sets out to force them to mature. She subtly or not-so-subtly, depending on who's viewpoint you take, kicks them all out of the house to find their way in the world.

The story is woven with text messages between the children, who all think their mother has gone crazy.

Good book for anyone looking for a quick & easy read full of normal every day family life.

Susan Barnes says

Full House by Maeve Binchy is part of the Quick Reads series. It is a short, entertaining story, although unrealistic at times. The story focuses on Dee, the mother of a family comprising her husband and three adult children who are all still living at home. It is not until her husband loses his job that Dee decides their domestic arrangements need to change. This is rather a shock to her children who have learnt over the years that their parents are happy to provide board and lodging free of charge, without them taking any responsibility for domestic chores.

While the context is completely believable, the solution to Dee's dilemma is a bit too convenient. She manages to completely change years of behaviour, as well as her husband's attitude, in a matter of weeks. Solutions conveniently materialize and people adapt surprisingly quickly to the new situation. The format of the book, being only 146 pages in large print, is inclined to encourage a speedy resolution.

Even so, Maeve Binchy is an excellent story teller and overall it was an enjoyable read. I like the Quick Reads series as stories are not slowed down by long winded descriptions or unnecessary detail.

Lisa says

For a comfort read this is a goodie - a mini family drama

Hannie says

Een redelijk dun boek over een echtpaar met drie kinderen. Hoewel de kinderen allemaal al volwassen zijn, wonen ze toch nog thuis. Op een gegeven moment besluit de moeder om het roer om te gooien. Ondanks de serieuze ondertoon is het ook grappig en heeft het de warmte die ik zo gewend ben van Maeve Binchy's boeken. Een aantal dingen kwamen me bekend voor. Het kan zijn dat dit verhaal in een andere vorm ook al eens in een verhalenbundel van Maeve Binchy heeft gestaan.

Suzanne says

Lovely story as all Maeve's are. My first iBook, I think I probably missed holding the book in the old fashioned way. Great story that flows from one character to the next, with a mix of characters that were enjoyable and relatable. Easy read and highly recommended. What a lovely lady Mrs Binchy must have been!

Obsidian says

What can I say. It's a Maeve Binchy short story and I devour these things like chocolate. Anytime I am feeling under the weather I will bust out one of her books or short story collections and read for a bit. Since her death, I have found that I don't have every one of her books in my possession. So I decided this year I was going to make sure I got around to reading all of her works this year.

For long time fans of Maeve Binchy this is a great short story. We get some glimpses of prior characters we met in older Binchy works (Scarlet Feather, Heart and Soul, Minding Frankie) and we get some insight into a family that we have never heard of before.

Dee Nolan loves her three adult children, but is getting a bit tired of being expected to cook and clean up after them. Returning home one day to find out her husband Liam is about to be laid off, she finally decides to do something about the fact that she and her husband have managed to raise three oblivious and at times thoughtless children.

I don't know how Maeve Binchy is able to instill such life into the characters we meet in this short story. Right off the bat I felt for Dee and Liam. I can't imagine how happy I would be if I was always running around after my adult kids who seem to expect it. I mean we get one scene where Dee is telling the children about their father being laid off and they all just want to know about supper. I would have been smacking some heads with a frying pan, that's just me though.

We hear more about Rosie, Helen, and Anthony through a series of texts they send to each other and some more scenes we get when they start to realize that their mother is not going to clean/cook for them anymore and also decides to let their rooms in order to bring in extra income.

The writing is typical Binchy which to me is it's excellent. There is one scene that stood out in my mind. Dee the mother is getting extra work in order to provide for the household. The job is at the same place that her daughter Rosie works in, and Rosie tells her mother to not speak to her while she's there. I mean, can you

imagine?

The flow works really well, and man oh man I wish that this had been longer. I was enjoying the story a lot.

The ending made me shake my head, because in typical Binchy fashion you get the sense the children still don't get what the big deal was and that they still feel outrage towards their mother who decided she wasn't going to be their unpaid servant anymore.
