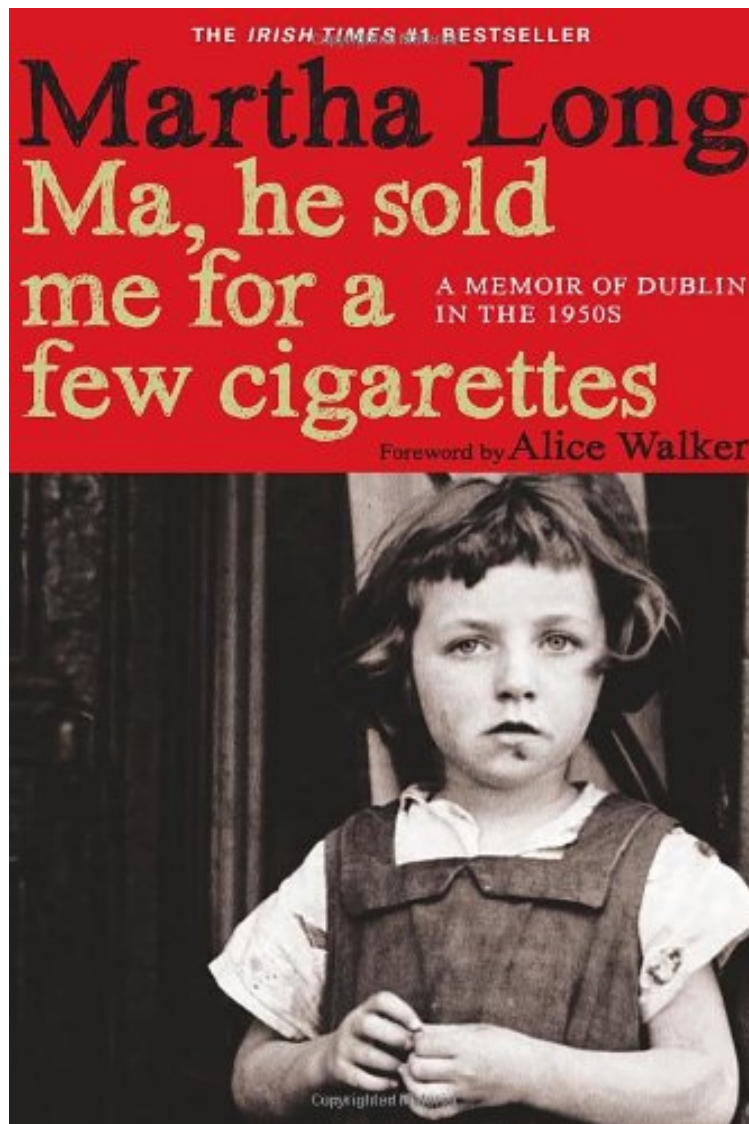


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Ma, He Sold Me for a Few Cigarettes: A Memoir of Dublin in the 1950s (Memoirs of Dublin)

Martha Long

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Martha Long : Ma, He Sold Me for a Few Cigarettes: A Memoir of Dublin in the 1950s (Memoirs of Dublin) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ma, He Sold Me for a Few Cigarettes: A Memoir of Dublin in the 1950s (Memoirs of Dublin):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Part way through it seemed to be telling the same story over a

second time. By Dismas This is a disturbing book. But was hard to not read once I'd started it. Part way through it seemed to be telling the same story over a second time. Turns out it is, unless Mrs Long has corrected that. Part of the book is simply a copy of another section of the book. It's almost two chapters that are apparently just copied and pasted into a later section as two more chapters, with few if any modifications. I was so disappointed in the author, I just scanned the rest and finished it quickly. You'd think the editors would have caught this. Other wise I'd call it very good, but it seems like a lot of cutting corners to finish a writing. The language is troubling too. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wow, this book. By Tiffany Wow, this book. I found myself trying desperately to try to figure out how this girl's voice must have sounded because her accent is so thick in the narrative. You really get a sense of her. She is a very precious child, with lots of spunk despite the terrible circumstances she is in. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Could not put this book down..... By S.E.H. I couldn't put it down. It broke my heart at times, I felt like all of her misfortunes couldn't keep up. Unfortunately they did. Her spirit and intelligence kept her going and all of courage and bravery are more than a lot of grown men have. The only reason I gave it four stars was at times things just jumped ahead there was no closure after something dreadful happened. I would recommend this to all mothers, and possibly older teenagers to know how bad things really do happen and there are so many children who really have to live in such deplorable conditions. I am starting the second book today, I have to find out what happens next.

"Not for the faint of heart, Long's story is a gritty, grueling, and heartbreaking testament to one girl's unbreakable spirit." Publishers Weekly, starred review When Martha Long's feckless mother hooks up with the Jackser ("that bandy aul bastard"), and starts having more babies, the abuse and poverty in the house grow more acute. Martha is regularly sent out to beg and more often steal, and her wiles (as a child of 7, 8) are often the only thing keeping food on the table. Jackser is a master of paranoid anger and outburst, keeping the children in an unheated tenement, unable to go to school, at the ready for his unpredictable rages. Then Martha is sent by Jackser to a man he knows in exchange for the price of a few cigarettes. She is nine. She is filthy, lice-ridden, outcast. Martha and Ma escape to England, but for an itinerant Irishwoman finding work in late 1950s England is a near impossibility. Martha treasures the time alone with her mother, but amazingly Ma pines for Jackser and they eventually return to Dublin and the other children. And yet there are prized cartoon magazines, the occasional hidden penny to buy the children sweets, the glimpse of loving family life in other houses, and Martha's hope that she will soon be old enough to make her own way. Virtually uneducated, Martha Long is natural-born storyteller. Written in the vernacular of the day, the reader is tempted to speak like Martha for the rest of a day (and don't let me hear yer woman roarin' bout it neither). One can't help but cheer on this mischievous, quick-witted, and persistent little girl who has captured hearts across Europe. From the Trade Paperback edition.

"The destruction of our common humanity through the manipulation of imposed poverty, misogyny, alcoholism and drug abuse, is a major source of our misery, world-wide; and has been for a long time. Reading this startling testament to one child's valiant attempts to live until the age of sixteen (four years to go!) is a worthy reminder that we can do better as adults if we turn to embrace the children who are suffering, anywhere on earth, who are coming toward us, their numbers increasing daily, for help." Alice Walker "Coming-of-age hardships skillfully recounted by way of the colloquial Irish tongue." Kirkus s Beautifully written and packed with detail. Miraculously, Martha is attuned to the simple wonders of the world around her: a BBC radio music program, young nuns having a snowball fight. It's a world she is determined to become a part of just as soon as she is old enough to flee. The Cleveland Plain Dealer One thing readers will notice is the unexpected theme of courage and hope throughout this dark, heart-breaking tale. This story was one of the most unique, surprisingly inspiring memoirs available. Yahoo Voices "Stands head and shoulders above everything else in the category . . . a remarkable personal and literary achievement for the author and an unforgettable experience for the reader." Irish Independent "[Long's] story is unique in its rawness and its honesty. Entirely self-educated, she narrates her own life in a way which is both riveting and moving." Greenock Telegraph "A tale of strength, bravery and sheer determination of not letting life beat you." Irish Post "An ultimately uplifting story which salutes the strength of the human spirit." Irish World From the Trade Paperback edition. About the Author MARTHA LONG was born in the 1950s in Dublin, where she lives to this day. She is the author of the eight-part Ma series of memoirs, which have been best-sellers in the UK and Ireland. In 2014 Long published her first novel, Run, Lily, Run. A self-proclaimed middle-aged matron, she has successfully reared three children. From the Trade Paperback edition.