



The Unkillable Kitty O'Kane

Colin Falconer

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When fiery and idealistic Kitty O'Kane escapes the crushing poverty of Dublin's tenements, she's determined that no one should ever suffer like she did. As she sets out to save the world, she finds herself at the forefront of events that shaped the early twentieth century. While working as a maid, she survives the sinking of the *Titanic*. As a suffragette in New York's Greenwich Village, she's jailed for breaking storefront windows. And traveling war-torn Europe as a journalist, she's at the Winter Palace when it's stormed by the Bolsheviks. Ultimately she returns to her homeland to serve as a nurse in the Irish Civil War.

During Kitty's remarkable journey, she reunites with her childhood sweetheart, Tom Doyle, but Tom doesn't know everything about her past—a past that continues to haunt her. Will Kitty accept that before she can save everyone else, she needs to find a way to save herself? Or will the sins of her past stop her from pursuing her own happiness?

The Unkillable Kitty O'Kane Details

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Author : Colin Falconer

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From Reader Review The Unkillable Kitty O'Kane for online ebook

Nicole Jackson says

I never actually finished this. I became bored and frankly, forgot about it until I realized id never cleared it out on Goodreads. I suppose that says something.

Tawni Winns says

What a life!

Bad luck seemed to follow this girl like a shadow. She wanted so badly to leave her mark on the world and she did but just not in the way that she imagined. Her whole life she had all of these near misses, she could never get things to come together the way she wanted it. I admire her gumption to keep pressing forward in situations when someone else would have given up.

Edgar Guede says

Amazing Kitty

Kitty O'Kane is born in a shanty neighborhood of Dublin and has to put up with an abusive father. Tired of it, she escapes with a sailor and finds her way into a stewardess job on board the Titanic. From there, she goes unscathed through two ship sinking , and follows a war correspondent all over eastern Europe, pursuing the ideal of a new world order that would bring justice and equality to women. But she takes time to realise that changing the world and finding true love is not an easy task. Lots of good writing on this book..

Mandy meyer says

I could not put this book down!

I loved this story from the very beginning! Especially from the perspective of a woman and her life on the early 1900's. Kitty O'Kane is a woman we can all look up to for her bravery, her adventures and her outspoken mouth!

Lisa says

Received this book in a Goodreads giveaway for free

The title and cover image are terribly misleading. I thought this would be a story about a woman who strengthens and grows over the course of the novel, who triumphs in the end. Instead, Kitty runs away from a

horrific home life in Dublin and become a stewardess for White Star Lines. Thus, she is on the Titanic and survives it's sinking. It's on that ship where she meets two men who will influence the next 15 years of her life, in very different ways. One is Jack Finnegan, an Irish gangster from New York who has "sleazy bad guy" written all over him. The other is Lincoln Randolph, a freelance journalist who also happens to be a socialist.

(view spoiler)

The ending didn't make up for the grimness of the rest of the story. I guess that's how you know it's literature.

Tonya says

I get really tired of all the authors using bad language. While a good story, I didn't even want to finish the book due to bad language. Granted, I have been going through kind of a dry spell and finding things to read. As my eyesight fades, I have to think about how I'm going to read. I am always interested in other peoples ideas of what is a good Kindle book.

Amanda Helling says

The premise of this novel intrigued me & I was able to purchase a Kindle edition for a few dollars. I was wildly disappointed by the book.

It was featured in an email from Amazon and I wanted a book to read. The summary indicated it would be a story about a strong woman who faced down adversity and went on adventures. Instead it was a strong girl who grows into a woman buffeted about by horrible men. It is exactly what I feared would come of a man writing a strong woman character: it was full of tropes and cliches. Several times when there is hope for Kitty, she is her own undoing, which in some ways is more maddening than the gratuitous use of rape and emotional abuse.

Even the (very last minute) happy ending does very little to salvage the book, which for me amounted to a relitigating of gender politics and struggle in a way that was neither constructive nor hopeful. That it was written by a man doesn't make it worse, necessarily, but certainly makes it easier to condemn.

The only thing I appreciated about the book was the obvious hypocrisy of many of the radical men (re: they're misogynists, too!).

In short, I do not recommend this book.

Erin says

Audiobook performed by Alana Kerr Collins 9h 42m

Performance is a 4 star

My listening enjoyment -solid 3 stars.

A sweeping story surrounding a fictional Irishwoman named Kitty O'Kane who had a front row seat during many events in 20th century Europe. Kitty, herself, was a very difficult character to like as she seemed a bit of a whiner. Colin Falconer knows how to set the tone and make sure his situations ring true, but goodness couldn't he have toughened his protagonist up a bit?

Judy says

I got the book as a kindle first book of the month. The historical events and time period intrigued me, as did the potential of one character witnessing so many of them.

Kitty is not your typical heroine. She does not have a lot of tools to change her initial situation. She uses the tools that she can to remove herself from the slums and continues to do so throughout the book. Many people find fault with the way she is attached to men who are bad for her throughout the book, yet she uses them also to gain her own advantage. They are the tools she uses in an era when women were not powerful on their own. She tolerates a lot of abuse in the process. Kitty makes decisions that can be unlikeable from a modern perspective. However, I admired her fight. I admired that she refused to give up. I admired her undeniable will to survive.

In addition, reading through the historical events have piqued my curiosity about several of them. I will be following up with some of the historical accounts to become better educated about the events of the time period. I believe one mark of a good story is if it inspires me to dig deeper and learn more. This book did that for me.

Mary Barrett says

Five stars

This book has been an adventure, from the beginning, to the end. From the terrible poverty and abusive father in the Irish Slums of Dublin, to working for the White Star line aboard the Titanic, Kitty O'Kane lead a whale of a life. Colin Falconer does a good job leading us through trauma, and terror of her life. Of course, the silver lining we all hope for is there for rescue, if she will only grab for it... Well written and well edited!

Mary Schatz says

I've read a number of books lately with intrepid young women in the early 1900's finding their way in the world. I've really enjoyed novels about these pioneering women (Radio Girls, The Secret Life of Violet Gray, Lilac Girls) I expected this book to be similar, but it really isn't. Kitty O'Kane is presented as a feisty, smart, unconventional young woman. I guess she sort of is? She follows around unconventional men. But, she is always with and dependent on a man. She doesn't really even have the courage of her own convictions, she just enters the worlds of these men and adopts their thinking. I kept waiting for her to evolve into an independent, self-reliant person, but she really never does. It's incredibly frustrating. You're following the story of a smart woman with incredible potential let her own fears and self-loathing lead her into a series of bad decisions. It might be realistic, but it isn't very satisfying.

Irene says

"Kitty O'Kane dreamed of a kind husband and a just life; what she had was haddock water for supper and a dribble of her own blood, seen at close quarters, on the toe of her father's scuffed boot"

Heartbreaking stuff am I right? It pulled me in and had such high hopes for Kitty, but somewhere around the halfway point it all fell apart for me. From a bright, poverty stricken Irish girl with a simple dream that she could have easily achieved Kitty changed into someone I just didn't like very much. After surviving the sinking of the Titanic it seemed as if Kitty more let herself be manipulated into wanting to become a journalist than actually following her own dreams. Somehow even though she was the girl who wanted to fight for women's rights she let herself be dependent upon and manipulated by men. I did enjoy the historical references but I had different expectations of this book.

I received a complimentary copy for review

Abigail McKenna says

I want to be able to say that I loved this book. I want so badly to be able to say that. But I can't. Which is so disappointing.

Here we have a hisfic about an absolutely fascinating idea - a woman who survives not only the Titanic, but also the Lusitania, the whole Bolsheviks situation, and the Irish Civil War. Now, I thought Kitty was a real person. I was wrong, which is also sad. But the book is still really cool in concept.

Unfortunately, there was so much language and so many sex scenes that I can't justify giving this a high rating. Which will probably seem stupid to some people, but I can't recommend this book to anyone for those reasons. Also warnings for domestic/child abuse and the horrors of war (obviously).

I'm so sad that I didn't love this book. Because I absolutely devoured it, but i just /can't/. Ugh.

(BUT I will say that I adore Tom. Tom deserves all the happiness and love. You go, Tom. Be that strong surgeon who's been through so much and is still so kind. Yes.)

Karen Thompson says

A takeoff about two real journalists who wrote about wars in the early 1900's, this book was extremely interesting in so many ways. Kitty O'Kane grew up in an Irish household with an alcoholic, abusive father and all she ever wanted was to get away, and this she did. She worked as a maid on the Titanic where she met a journalist who asked her to join him as he covered different wars of the time. This led her to faraway places and unbelievable living conditions. I enjoyed reading about the European history and the life of this unorthodox woman.

Samantha (AK) says

Every month, Amazon sends out it's "kindlefirst" books, and most months they're pretty disappointing. I can't actually remember what the other options were the month that this one found its way into my library, but it ended up being a decent read.

Kitty O'Kane is unkillable--not untouchable. She finds herself in one bad situation after another, many by circumstance, some by her own decisions. Careening from disaster to disaster, she finds handholds where she can, often in bad men who bring their own difficulties to the table.

(I'd like to point out that this book also has the most well-developed depiction of a narcissistic personality that I've ever read. It's *hard* to convincingly write a person so self-absorbed that they believe their selfish actions are for another character's benefit, but Falconer pulls it off.)

In the end, though, this book is about Kitty learning that--despite everything she's been through; despite everything she's seen, and experienced, and done; despite the limitations of her sex and the time in which she lives--she is deserving of a happy ending. It's about survival and recovery in the face of a life filled more with trauma than stability, and it does that very well.

Before I go, I will say that the writing tends to be a bit jarring. Falconer has a tendency to skip over "filler," which--while cutting out unnecessary events is good--creates some abrupt transitions in Kitty's timeline. YMMV with this. Overall, I thought it was fine--in some respects quite good--but not amazing.
