



## Quentins

*Maeve Binchy*

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## Quentins Maeve Binchy

Is it possible to tell the story of a generation and a city through the history of a restaurant?

Ella Brady thinks so. She wants to film a documentary about Quentins that will capture the spirit of Dublin from the 1970s to the present day. And Quentins has a thousand stories to tell: tales of love, of betrayal, of revenge; of times when it looked ready for success and times when it seemed as if it must close in failure. But as Ella uncovers more of what has gone on at Quentins, she begins to wonder whether some secrets should be kept that way...

With Quentins, Maeve Binchy follows her bestselling *Scarlet Feather* with a new book that delivers the hallmark storytelling that has kept millions of her readers happy for more than twenty years.

## Quentins Details

Date : Published 2003 by Orion (first published 2002)

ISBN : 9780752849522

Author : Maeve Binchy

Format : Paperback 403 pages

Genre : Fiction, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Romance, Cultural, Ireland

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## From Reader Review Quentins for online ebook

### Nigham says

This book is all about the daily life of a restaurant, “**Quentin**”, about its staff and customers. And... well... it was an "**utterly boring read**". A guy in his late 70's, single/divorced, living alone would certainly enjoy this read. I can't believe, I even finished this book. :/

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### Grace J Reviewerlady says

This was a re-read for me. Like going to reunion with friends, you are no sooner there than you feel as if you've never been apart. I love Maeve Binchy's writing and would heartily recommend her books to readers of contemporary fiction.

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### Sanja Knezovic says

I preferred her other books. I don't know why...This one just did not have any magic for me.

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### Sarah says

Set in contemporary Dublin, Quentins tells the story of Ella Brady, a young woman who has fallen for The Wrong Man. The tale is both universal and timeless, but this time around there is the added elements of tax fraud, hiding out in Spain and The Mystery of the Laptop Computer. While great parts of this book are highly improbable, unrealistic and unnecessary, this book was a really great read. It isn't the main characters that make it work, but the side characters (there are many, and some from Binchy's previous work) and the setting are so much fun that you don't care about the goofy tax fraud business.

I've never really gotten into the idea that summer reading should always be light and fun, but this book seems to sort of fit that bill. I would recommend this book to readers who are looking for a good story without a lot of heavy elements or objectionable material.

While this book is set in contemporary Dublin, it is a little on the quaint side. Dublin today is multi-ethnic melting pot, warts and all. To read about both Dubliners and immigrants both, I would recommend The Deportees and Other Stories by Roddy Doyle.

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### Kristy says

Finally finished this book. I had so many issues with the main character of the book & the ending ... \*sigh\* I would not recommend this book... in fact the only reason it's not 1 star is because I reserve those for books I don't finish. Others may like it & there were parts that were ok but at the end it just seemed pointless to me.

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## May says

Just finished reading this for the nth time. This is one of the books I take off my shelf and dust off every couple of years. I always considered this book as the sequel from Scarlett Feather which I also reread every couple of years for the same reason.

Rereading them is like meeting old friends and though we talked about the same old familiar things, we still found them funny, adorable or sad. We would laughed at the same jokes, shook our heads at the same stupid stories and moaned at the same people. I take them out everytime I feel the world is getting too much and I need somewhere to hide and someone to restore my strength. I always close the book with a smile on my face albeit with glassy eyes and the thought, "ok, life is good". :)

Many people don't like the way the book was written because it feels fleeting. Somehow I find it pleasing and love all the little stories surrounding the main storyline. It feels somewhat like my favourite movie, Love, Actually.

MB has a way of writing that I can only describe as peaceful and witty. I have never found any other author who write like her. When I read her books, I read it with irish accent in my head sometimes. Just feel oddly peaceful when I read her words.

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## Candice says

Enjoyable read about a group of friends in Dublin all interacting one way or another through the restaurant Quentins. Got a nice sense of the Irish personalities.

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## Lisa says

Another fab book from Maeve Binchy. If you love Maeve then you'll love this - it has stories from EVERYONE in Dublin (lol) including loads of characters from other books. It's maybe a bit disjointed but it's split into different parts so you can know who's speaking.

Yes, it's a bit dated and Maeve had several themes she liked to do in every book so it is pretty repetitive but I don't care about that. Pure comfort read.

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## rachid idjiou says

Wonderful characters and Maeve Binchy's inimitable storytelling talent. thank you meave to introduce our food to all people around the world ///"I ll make sure Patrick has something from our poor imitation of Moroccan cuisine when you come, " she promised . " we do a nice orange and cinnamon salad with a chicken tajine, but it's not quite exotic enough" . "Probably quite exotic enough for Dublin " Quentin laughed ."you have been away for a long time " she said. She talked to Patrick about it that night."you should have said a couscous" he complained ."he'd know we were trying at least" ." He's not coming home to examine the food"brenda said. " what for then ?"."i don't know " she didn't know , it seemed too odd to say she thought he

was coming home to say goodbye///

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### **Laurie says**

This is my first Maeve Binchy book and I was pretty pleased for the most part. I was finally drawn to her because of my affinity for all things Irish.

There are enough stories and fully-fleshed out characters to keep one entertained throughout. However, the main character, Ella, does such a disservice to womankind as I have ever met in literature. Trust me though, the larger story that unfolds (most of which she doesn't appear in) is a real gem. I definitely would read another Binchy book that stays away from such off-putting characters.

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### **Anne L. says**

I've read other Maeve Binchy books and enjoyed them, so I kept giving this book chances to redeem itself; it never did. The story revolves around Ella Brady, a seemingly intelligent young woman with certain standards and values, who in chapter two starts doing stupid and illogical things. It was incredibly annoying. For example (spoiler alert), she sees nothing wrong with having an affair with a married man (after lambasting her friend for a similar indiscretion) and lying to her parents about it, yet is so honorable that, even after this man absconds with millions of dollars of investors' money (ruining her father's career and forcing her parents to move into the little garden house in the backyard so they can rent out their own house), changes his name and flees the country with his wife and children, she refuses to turn into the police the computer (which undoubtedly has all the evidence needed to prove his crimes) he inadvertently left in her apartment, because that's not what a loyal friend would do. Feeling sorry for her, a filmmaker friend invites her to help him make a documentary. Of course, Ella ends up being the person to fly to New York to represent the project in their quest for a funding grant, and planning the entire film. Come on, this is a woman with a degree in science and limited teaching experience who knows nothing of filmmaking and has spectacularly poor judgment, yet they entrust the future of this endeavor to her? Since the film will be about the lives of the customers that eat at the Dublin restaurant, Quentins, interspersed throughout the book are sections about those folks. Unfortunately, all this does is muddy the waters as you try to remember who's who and how they fit in. Also, nearly every character that has occurred in other Binchy books is here in some shape or form, and it's nearly impossible to keep track of this cast of thousands. I found myself flipping back and forth, trying to identify just who this person was again, until I just gave up and skipped over those parts. I found myself skimming over the last three pages of the book because, at this point, I really didn't care what happened to these people. Really, what this seemed like to me was someone else trying to write a "Maeve Binchy" book, and trying too hard to incorporate every character she's written about. Like I said before, I usually like this author and I'll give her another shot, but I can't recommend this book.

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### **Hania says**

My first ever Bunchy.novel...I think I'm in love....I thought it would be a bit of a light read when i started the ebook, it had me hooked till the last page...

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## Diana says

Is it possible to tell the story of a generation and a city through the history of a restaurant? Ella Brady thinks so. She wants to film a documentary about Quentins that will capture the spirit of Dublin from the 1970s to the present day. After all the restaurant saw the people of a city become more confident in everything from their lifestyles to the food that they chose to eat. And Quentins has a thousand stories to tell: tales of love, of betrayal, of revenge, of times when it looked ready for success and of times when it seemed as if it must close in failure. Quentins is presided over by the apparently unflappable Patrick & Brenda Brennan, whose efforts have made the place a legend in the life of Dubliners and visitors alike. But even the Brennans have a story and a problem that is hidden from the public gaze. As Ella uncovers more and more of what has gone on at Quentins, she begins to question the wisdom of capturing it all in a documentary. Are there some stories that are too sacred to be told, some secrets that must be kept? By getting to know the people that pass through the doors of Quentins, Ella has finally gotten to know herself.

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## Icewineanne says

If you haven't read Scarlet Feather, read that one first, as this is the sequel. Fun read 3.5 stars :-)

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## Martha? says

(2.5 stars) This month's challenge was to read something 'light and fluffy' by an author you haven't read before. Maeve Binchy's Quentins fit the bill on every level. 'Light and Fluffy' is not my usual genre, nor will it become so, but I sort of enjoyed my fictional visit to Dublin through Binchy's eyes. It passed the time during a few long flights and long layovers this summer.

Ella is the perfect child, teenager and adult. She has every career option open to her. She is liked and admired by everyone. She falls for a married man and has a passionate yet doomed relationship with him until he dumps her. While grieving the loss of his love, she waffles between jobs, becoming an expert in everything she tries. As a film maker, she pitches the story of Dublin's favourite neighbourhood restaurant, Quentins, and is awarded sponsorship for the film. She goes on to delve into the lives and loves of those who frequent the restaurant and those who are employed there. Her previous lover returns on the scene and everyone awaits Ella's reaction. Suspense ensues.

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## Susan Decker says

I can not believe I finished this book. The sub plots were okay, but the main plot was almost unbearable. Ella, the main character is a disgrace to all women. She proved herself to be a weak, vulnerable character, and everyone babied her when she finally got what she deserved. I screamed in frustration every time she pulled the "He still loves me" stunt. Come on! He fled the country with every penny of savings your family and friends had, Yeah. He still loves you, and he's SO worth waiting for. The only reason I kept reading was because the cover of the book was so cute. Well, whoever said "You can't judge a book by it's cover" wasn't too far off.

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### **Lauren says**

I have mixed feelings about this one. There is a huge array of characters here, most of which are terrific. Unfortunately, though, the one whose story frames the rest is a complete nit. If only we could avoid her, this book would be beautiful!

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### **Penny says**

Lovely story as usual from Maeve Binchy, always a good feel factor. Ella Brady is the perfect child, no bother to her parents, until she meets Don Richardson, who takes her and everyone else he is in contact with for a ride.

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### **Gina says**

To be honest, I can't believe I even finished this book. The plot and sub plots were merely ok. Elle, the protagonist, drove me crazy! She was such a baby! She just whined and cried until she got what she wanted. And for her to think that her "love" was still in love with her was just a sad joke. If he loved her so much why did he up and leave taking every bit of money leaving her penniless?

I have decided that I have so many books that if I don't like a book by page 150-200 I am giving up on it even though I feel a huge amount of guilt about not following through on things. By the end of this book I was speed reading just to be finished. If a book makes me feel like that then I should have given up on it a long time ago. I have too many good books to waste my time on the bad ones. 2 stars and that is generous!

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### **Kim says**

At first I did not like Quentins. The characters didn't seem to have much depth and the story was a little boring. I have a really hard time relating to main characters that enter into extramarital affairs. Maybe that was my main issue. But then around page 150 it picked up and I started to love/hate characters where appropriate :-). I finally began to like and care about the main character, Ella, whom I hated at the beginning of the novel.

For the most part I enjoyed the short stories offered between the events of the main story line more than the main story line itself. But toward the end I became extremely interested in what was going to happen and COULD NOT put it down. I read the last 150 pages in 1.5 hours. And it turns out this was a GREAT book. Not one of Binchy's best, but still really, really good.

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