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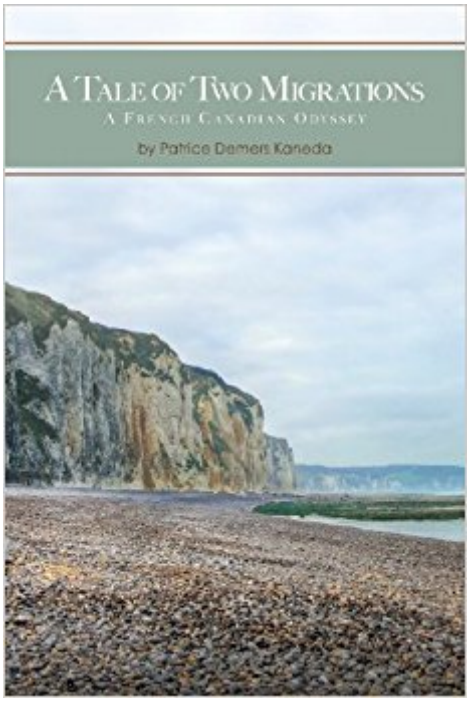
A Tale Of Two Migrations: A French Canadian Odyssey



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Synopsis

A French Canadian Odyssey...Between 1840 and 1930 millions of people passed through Ellis Island to New York from the countries of Europe, but what do we know of the descendants of the 10,000 original settlers of Nouvelle France, French Canada, who walked, came on horseback, or train and made their way to New England and to a new life during the same period? In this adventurous tale, Pat Demers Kaneda finds her family, real and imagined, in 17th century France and brings them across the sea to North America where they face hardship and unimagined challenges and leaves them in New England in the1950's to face a new decade. If you are one of the descendants of the Quebecois, this is your story. It is one more piece of the American mosaic.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I enjoyed reading this historical novel. Change the names and this could be my family's story from France to Quebec to America. Having visited Montreal again last year, the story's locations were fresh in my memory. And I also remembered some of my mother's stories of repression of the French Canadians by the Catholic church and the power they still held through the early 1900s. I checked the historical characters out on Wikipedia as I read, so a good history lesson as well.

I found this to be quite enlightening. If you're interested in genaology you'll particularly enjoy it. If your forebears came into the country in a different way than through Ellis Island, you will not find much to go on. This was particularly interesting to read about the French attitude toward their role in developing Canada.

Have you ever wondered where we come from? What were the travails and joys of these who came before us? Come along with Patrice Kaneda as she records her family's history and fleshes out their characters against the background of their times.This book will inspire the reader to connect with his/her own family's journey.The author has minutely researched and documented a history that began hundreds of years ago in Dieppe, France, and traces the interactions and triumphs of successive generations across the Atlantic to Quebec and finally to the present location of the family in Massachusetts in 1950. Vivid descriptions bring this tale alive.

I enjoyed learning about the hardships and ethics of these folk. My Grand MeMere was a terrifying woman. My Grandfather, though US born, had to take ESL on joining the Navy. He was raised speaking French only.I did kind of lose track of the various families who married and begat the Author. But I learned so much that it didn't matter to me. Also the Author claims this is fiction, but it seemed very real to me.

Imagine if Ancestry.com could come to life! Kaneda weaves a tale of many generations. The overarching theme in every generation is the human soul's striving to live a better life. Some were content to stay put, stay in their "station," and value family. Others put "opportunity" first. They didn't have psychologists or self-help books to help with their emotions. They stubbornly moved forward...generation after generation. This book isn't a deep dive into a particular person's life story, rather the story of a lineage, from the first settlers to today. It's no small task, and Kaneda manages it magnificently, holding our interest and keeping the epic story moving from the 1600's all the way to her humble beginnings as the daughter of Teddy, a man who, like his ancestors, wanted more in life and knew that putting in the effort (a very successful paper route at age 11) would lead to success.

Patrice Demers Kaneda, is a wonderful historical writer, who, with meticulous detail, takes the reader on a journey, a treacherous journey of her ancestors, traveling from Dieppe France to Canada,ultimately settling in New England. Her careful analysis of religious, economic, and political events makes this book a MUST READ for anyone interested in the affect of history on the life, troubles and success of people forced to flee from poverty, bigotry and oppression. It is a story that will resonate with those who had, or know of others who had, the courage to flee and start life anew. In the case of Demers-Kaneda's ancestors, not once, but twice.Barbara Cowen, Ph.D

I found the book to be an interesting presentation of the history of the French Canadians. Using a story-format kept me interested. I will admit to overlooking some editing problems (Kindle edition) that others might find distracting.

This lovely little book is an example of the legacy one might leave children and grandchildren. Told simply in less than 200 pages, it is the story of the French Canadian migration beginning in 1640 when the Demers family first sailed to Quebec. Part fact, part fiction, it is a testament to the author's integrity that she tells the reader upfront not to take the stories verbatim. On the other hand, the book is well researched and there is plenty of factual information which would be of interest to students of history.I loved reading about the dangerous, lonely, and difficult journey taken by the Daughters of the King to New France. I could imagine myself in that situation and understand the tremendous anxiety embarking on such a trip. I also enjoyed the myriad details of ordinary life throughout the book. On the other hand, I was somewhat confused by the various political intrigues going on; yet the author was always able to bring me back to the story through her cast of interesting characters. The book concludes with some background on the author's parents and her own early life in New England. Of course, an interested reader always wants more but the story ends in the 1950s.This book looks and feels beautiful. Although there are some minor publishing errors, the actual production is top quality and, with its large type, was a pleasure to read. The book could easily be used in high school, as a supplement to a textbook. Both girls and boys might be drawn to the historical significance of this period as told through the many interesting and personal relationship stories.I was pleased to be introduced to a part of French-Canadian-American history of which I was totally unaware.

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