
Adam Stephenson

THE COMING TIDE

WAR CLOUDS LOOM OVER IRELAND

*As World War 2 hangs in the balance at Dunkirk, an ageing Irish man feels he should do his bit.
His wife has other ideas.*

*This Book is a work of Fiction, as are the The Coming Tide: War and Romance in Ireland
people in it.*

This is dedicated to Roisin, Erin, Laura, Thelma and Nono, who is in my heart.

**A DIFFERENT VERSION OF The Coming Tide: War and Romance in Ireland THIS WORK
WAS PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED IN "AN IRISH ROAD"**

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The Irish often take the hard road and not always to the right place...

THE COMING TIDE

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1940

I left her lying in bed as I crept across the cold lino, going downstairs to the kitchen and putting the kettle on. I The Coming Tide: War and Romance in Ireland sat at the table drinking from my mug, looking out the window to the quiet sea, the water already catching the pale morning sunlight. The tide was coming in, drawing closer to where I sat.

I thought I heard a creak on the stairs. I froze, cocking my head to one side for a listen. But it was my imagination, she'd be sleeping for a brave while yet. I let out a big sigh. Dear God! I badly wanted a cigarette, but apparently it wasn't good for me any more. There was a noise at the front door, and I scampered out to the hall, returning with the newspaper and spreading it out excitedly over the table.

"Thousands Get Home Safely" it read, "There was hard fighting at Dunkirk as ships and boats of all sizes dared the German guns, bringing back thousands more British troops to The Coming Tide: War and Romance in Ireland fight another day. Many -"

"I didn't hear you sneaking out of the bedroom!" The Coming Tide: War and Romance in Ireland she said from behind, making me jump.

"Dear God woman ye scared the life outta me!"

She sat down at the table, giving a wee groan as she did so. Stiff and old, like me. Her thick brown The Coming Tide: War and Romance in Ireland hair was cast in a bun as usual, the grey showing through, tempering her with iron.

"Have you been down here long?" she asked, eyebrows raised.

"Just a few minutes, reading the 'paper in peace."

"Oh? Do you want me to go back to bed and leave you and your newspaper alone?"

"Wise up Isobella!"

"Isobella is it? You're very formal already, and it's only gone 7.30."

"All right then, Bella, would you just wise up please? Wasn't there enough arguin' for ye last night?"

“Believe you me David I don't want a row either!”

I returned to the newspaper for a moment, not really reading the words, trying to let my resentment pass. I got up and *The Coming Tide: War and Romance in Ireland* poured some tea into her cup, setting it before her with a flourish. “There you go Mrs Stephenson!” I said, and she gave me a small smile.

I watched her take a dainty *The Coming Tide: War and Romance in Ireland* wee sip from her cup, looking all thoughtful. I wondered what was coming next. “David are they still trying to save those poor soldiers?” was all she said.

“Have a gander at the headline,” I replied, “Dunkirk's like a miracle so it is!” I slid the newspaper across the table.

“Oh my goodness!” Bella exclaimed after a moment, “It must be so frightening wondering if you'll get rescued, stuck there with those horrible Germans bombing *The Coming Tide: War and Romance in Ireland* you!” I was surprised by the tears in her eyes. I wanted to take her hand.

“Don't worry,” I said, “The Navy will get them all out!”

“Yes, but it says there's thousands more waiting on the beaches and in the port...”

“I know it's terrible isn't it? It's not that far away either,” I said, “all that fighting goin' on a few hours from here. The whole world hangin' in the balance.”

The Coming Tide War And Romance In Ireland

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