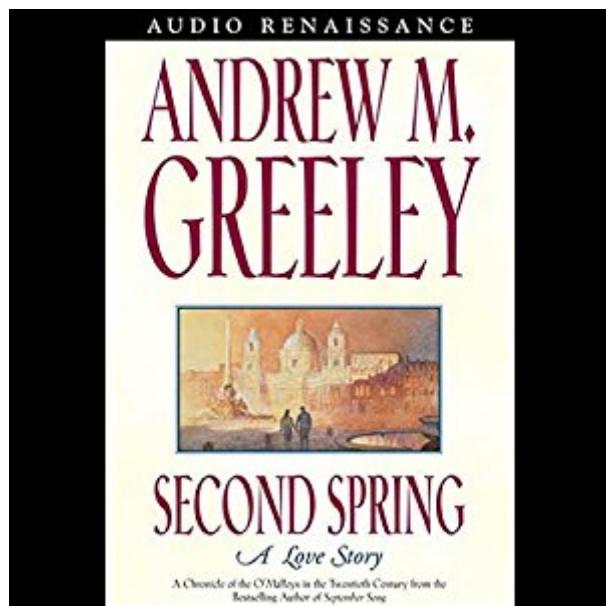


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Second Spring: A Love Story



Synopsis

Father Andrew M. Greeley, one of America's best-loved and most widely read novelists, has delighted readers with his ongoing chronicles of the crazy O'Malleys, a rambunctious but resourceful Irish-American family caught up in the sweep of modern American history. The previous novels in the saga have taken the O'Malleys of Chicago from the aftermath of World War II through the tumultuous upheavals of the sixties. Now, in *Second Spring*, Charles "Chucky" O'Malley and his growing clan face the promise and pitfalls of the late seventies. It's 1978 and the whole country, exhausted from the twin traumas of Vietnam and Watergate, is suffering from a massive hangover. Chucky O'Malley knows how the country feels; approaching fifty, he finds himself in the grip of a debilitating midlife crisis. Although he has much to be thankful for, including a loving wife and a thriving career as a professional photographer, he does not feel like a success. He hasn't lost his faith, exactly, but he does feel disillusioned and depressed. As he travels the world, from the Vatican, where a new pope is to be selected, to Jimmy Carter's White House, where an overwhelmed president struggles to find a cure for his nation's malaise, Chucky searches for a way to renew his weary spirit. Fortunately, he doesn't have to face this challenge alone. With the loving support of his family, and especially his irrepressible and adoring wife, Rosemarie, he just might rediscover his lost hope and optimism in time for a *Second Spring*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Reading any of Fr. Andrew Greeley's mini-sagas are always enjoyable if not downright addictive. I always buy at least one of the single ones and try to get the others so I can read them in order, but the wonderful part - each of the single books can stand on its own, without having to have the entire

series, but I recommend having the entire series for the 'feel' of how the saga plays out. Fr. Greeley's non-fiction books are excellent also. I've checked out mentioned 'true' statements and they are right on the money. The only one of Fr. Greeley's books I just couldn't seem to like was his autobiography - "Confessions of a Parish Priest". No reason I can think of, tho, perhaps getting so up close & personal with him isn't my cup 'o tea. Mountain Mama

Andrew M. Greeley's books never disappoint. Whatever religious denomination you are you will find God in his books, but don't think that this book is some dry religious treaty, oh, no, these books are FUN

I don't know why I keep reading these.

Andrew Greeley has several 'series' which follows families of characters through several generations, and this book is part of a series with the 'crazy' O'Malley family. I was delighted to find this volume that filled a gap in the series.

Always love Greeley

I liked the Fr Blackie books, so I thought I'd give an O'Malley book a try. There were things of interest in it, but Chucky clearly was anti-Protestant. He felt Catholics had more in common with Jews than with Protestant Christians. The only Protestant discussed was President Carter. Obviously Carter wasn't the best president, but Chucky made fun of him for his "lust in my heart" comment. No more O'Malley for me.

Second Spring, the fifth in the O'Malley family series, is set in Chicago during 1978-80. During the story, both Rosemarie and Chucky suffer identity crises. Rosemarie suffers with feelings of low self-worth and guilt. Chucky suffers a mid life crises as he turns fifty. These psychological problems become a threat to their relationship. Both want to save the marriage but need to struggle long and hard to save the union. The novel alternates between the narratives of Chucky and those of Rosemarie. This technique reveals both person's point of view, and adds greatly to the understanding of the emotional crises that often occur during the second decade of a marriage. As the action unfolds we take international journeys. O'Malley's twice visit Rome, and have side trips to Germany, Washington D.C. and Tucson Arizona. During the adventures around the world, Chucky

catches pneumonia, spends time in a hospital intensive care unit and encounters what he believes is an angel. The O'Malley family dynamics dominate the story. This is a novel about a family, their growth, their marriage, their schooling, and their social life. April Rosemary and Kevin Patrick both marry and start families. James Michael and Sean Seamus continue their band (jazz, of course). Moire is active in high school and Siobhan Marie has become an independent two year old. As in many Greeley novels, the author offers some interesting statements of wisdom. Rosemarie and Chuck talk about the "terrible binding power of love" - the grace God provides to couples to seal their marriage bond. Rosemarie asks why women should take seriously rules about sex and marriage from celibate men who have never cared for children, wear funny dresses and don't like women. The Second Spring is a fine story about the life of a family. It makes a great read for a rainy afternoon.

Happily married to his beloved Rosemarie and father to five adult children and three grandchildren that he adores and loves Charles "Chucky" Cronin still worries about the future. He remains a faithful Catholic, but wonders if perhaps the church abandoned its flock. He contemplates whether he is just suffering from a biological occurrence for someone turning fifty or a reaction to continual racial inequality, assassinations, priestly wrongdoing, Viet Nam and Watergate? Rosemary worries about much of the same agenda, but also is concerned with Chucky, who seems to have lost his step. Chucky, a professional photographer and former ambassador, soon regains much of his sixties and early seventies fervor that put him at odds with presidents. He and Rosemary try to dislodge a church protected pedophile priest. That fails because Cardinal Archbishop Thomas John O'Neill is psychotic and paranoid especially when it comes to protecting one of his own. Chuck and Rosemary have a cause to remove both abominations even as a personal miracle that has not happened to this couple in two decades occurs. The sixth O'Malley chronicle is an insightful look at the Carter Administration through the eyes of Chucky and Rosemary, alternating chapters. The story line provides a vivid scrutiny while insuring the lead couple feels complete. Chucky suffers from a mid life crisis as he begins to question all he once believed in while Rosemary encourages him to gracefully continue the fight for what both know is right. Andrew Greeley furnishes a delightful charmer that displays how the late 1970s, only twenty-five years ago, feel today like ancient history even to one who lived through it. Harriet Klausner

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