

?Reading? ? The First Ward Author Richard Sullivan – Soccerjerseys-wholesale.co

Posted on 10 May 2018 By Richard Sullivan

Fingy Conners Was A Millionaire and A Serial Murderer Get Ready To Be Astonished At What This Now Forgotten Actual Historical Figure Was Not Only Capable Of But Got Away With If Fingy Conners Had Sprung From Some Writer S Fanciful Imaginings, Such A Character Would Be Dismissed As Outlandish And Improbable, So Thoroughly And So Swiftly Did This Man Accrue Wealth, Political Power And Cruel Domination Over So Many Based On Over A Thousand Newspaper And Magazine Articles Written About Him, The Character Of Fingy Conners Serves As A Template For How Thoroughly Someone Who Asserts Unmitigated Authority, Backed By Audacious Lies And Unrelenting Threats Of Violence And Retribution, Can Rise To The Top Unchallenged Fingy Conners Domination Is Best Viewed Though The Eyes Of The First Ward S Sullivan Brothers And Their Wary Families Living Side By Side In Houses At River S Edge, Police Detective Sergeant Jim Sullivan Resists As Best He Might Conners Smothering Oversee, While His Younger Brother John P Sullivan, Obsessed With Attaining Political Power, Eagerly Crosses Over To The Dark Side As A Conners Ally Complicating Matters Is The Presence Of Jim S Brother In Law David J Nugent, Mentored From A Young Age By Conners To Assume The Role Of His Chief Lieutenant And Enforcer Of Violence Nugent S Persistent Criminality Stirs Conflict In Jim S Otherwise Strong Marriage To Nugent S Apologist Sister, Hannah At The Opposite End Of The Spectrum From Fingy Conners Lies The Great Samuel Clemens, Aka Mark Twain Whilst Co Owner Of The Buffalo Express Newspaper, Clemens

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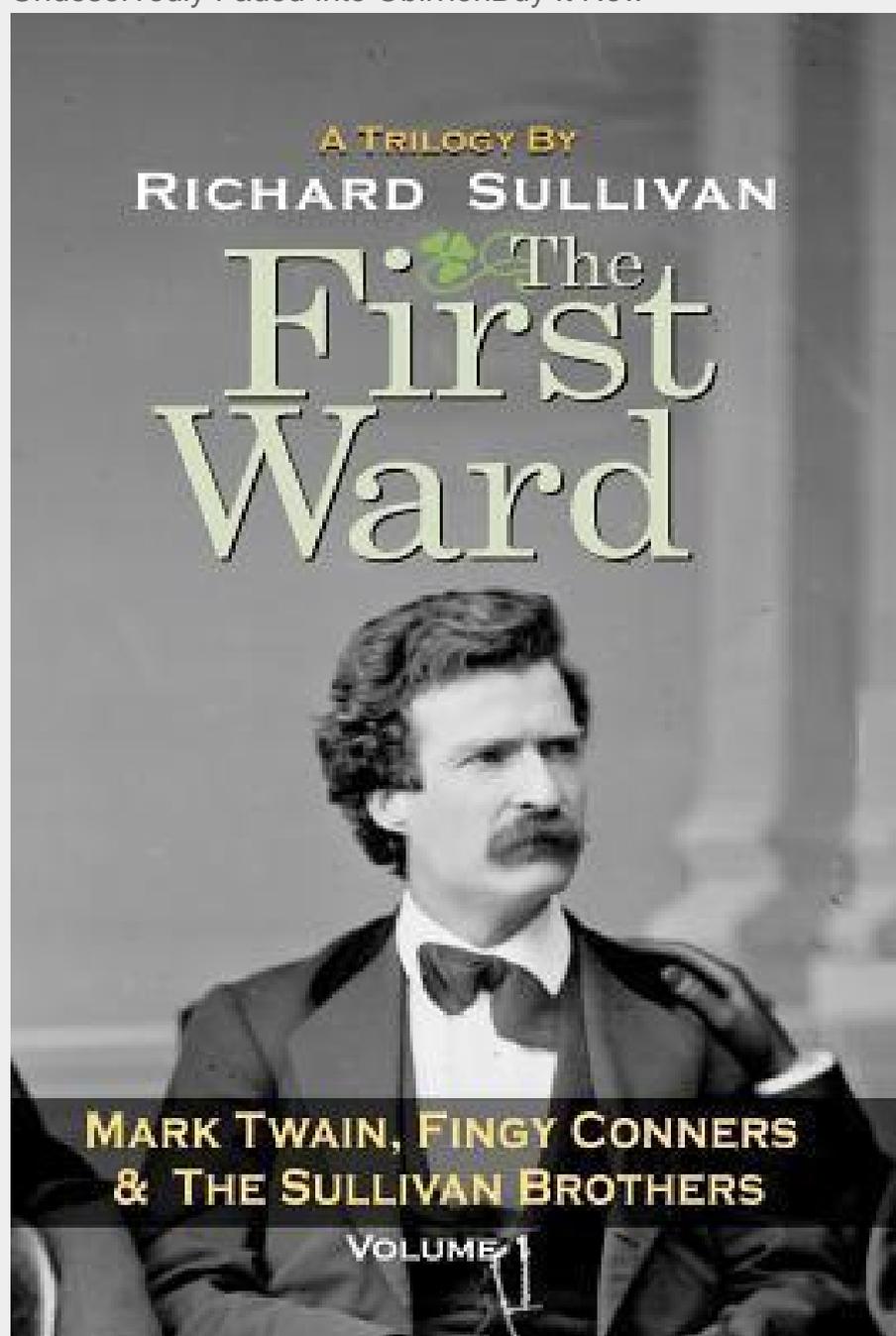
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Takes Teenage Jim Sullivan Under His Wing, Sensing The Deep Wounding Having Been Suffered By The Youth Sam Instills Hope And Purpose At The Cusp Of Jim S Manhood Where Little Previously Existed, Even As Clemens Himself Continues To Suffer Great Distress And Deep Personal LossAll Of The Personalities In The First Ward Novel Series Are Real They Lived And Breathed And Walked The Streets The Core Characters Are The Author S Own AncestorsThe First Ward Is A Sweeping Novel Part Series Set In Buffalo S Irish Waterfront First Ward, Immortalizing The Many Actual Historical Figures Who Struggled To Make Their Mark On This World, Ranging From CIA Founder Wild Bill Donovan, To Those Who Have Undeservedly Faded Into OblivionBuy It Now



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The Boy Next Door

10 thoughts on “The First Ward ”



Dennis Dauth Dennis Dauth says:

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Those hooked on the addictive intricacies of the BBC's *Downton Abbey* will much enjoy Richard Sullivan's *The First Ward*, a glowing first volume in what the author promises will be a multi book series. This novel kidnaps the reader into an unexplored era and places little known to most, and provides those of us who thought we were familiar with all of our nation's history something novel and fresh sturdily cemented in actual reported events, and for this feat Sullivan must be celebrated. Many historical novels harken back to others we've read previously, but *The First Ward* stands alone in my experience for its skillful integration of actual published newspaper and magazine accounts detailing astonishing documented events as reported the day they occurred. Intertwined with fantastic stories such as that of the Fenian Invasion, in which ten thousand disgruntled Civil War vets took up arms immediately following that conflict ended and amassed in Buffalo to launch an invasion of Canada to hold that country hostage until Britain gave Ireland its freedom, is the saga of the Sullivan family, emigrants from the Irish famine, trying to survive in a strange, and for them, mostly brutal new land. This reader had never heard of the Wide Awakes, the crazed grassroots national youth movement borne to help elect Abraham Lincoln to the presidency, nor that Mark Twain began his married life in Buffalo as editor of the *Buffalo Express* newspaper. But most fascinating of all, a very real, diabolical and extremely powerful person, so

powerful in fact that it boggles the mind we have never heard the name Fingy Connors before, is resurrected from the lost pages of history to be reborn in all his despicable and overpowering glory Connors headed New York State s Democratic party, owned two prominent newspapers, controlled the whole of shipping on all the Great Lakes, murdered and pillaged, and owned politicians by the score. There is not a superfluous paragraph in this 394 page book, not a dull passage nor anything to slog through to get to the good parts , for the entire book is composed of good parts that engage and fascinate and wrench the heart and touch us deeply. The author was quoted as saying that The First Ward is 75% real history, which provides that truth is indeed stranger than fiction Even though the story is in no way similar to Downton Abbey s, it rivals it in its addictive storyline of rivalry and heartbreak, intrigue, back stabbing and well developed real life characters. As I read The First Ward I could picture it coming to life on the screen, and I am thinking it will not be long before some savvy producer wishing to capitalize on the public s Downton Abbey fixation will see The First Ward as an American Downton Abbey. But meanwhile, I anxiously await volume 2 of The First Ward. The First Ward

Reply



Grady Grady says:

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A First Rate Historical Drama by a First Rate StorytellerIt is election year and while there are many candidates currently vying for the Republican position to run against President Obama, the stories that come leaping at us through the instant media and distillation of speeches, and debates, and roundtables and other means of

bringing up personal aspects of the various candidates political, religious and personal lives as fodder for the public to create their own images, all of that seems bland when compared to the type of writing contained in this brilliant historical novel THE FIRST WARD by Richard Sullivan. We may talk about corruption, immigration issues, and greed as being novel ingredients for current conversation, but take a look at the past especially the way Richard Sullivan enables to survey it and our current status may seem rather benign. Sullivan has tackled the history that filled the first Ward of Buffalo, New York during the second half of the 19th century. It is a tale of immigration primarily of the Irish genre and the hopes of immigrants who braved the times of the Civil War in this country to settle in Buffalo. It is a tale of an instantly wealthy robber baron, Fingy Conners, who abused his power by enslaving the Irish immigrants to work in his multitudinous industries the docks, the saloons, and in general the entire workforce of Buffalo. The author traces his connection to the Sullivans of Buffalo who struggled against Conners until the rise to political power of John P. Sullivan. Populating this compelling story are such characters as Mark Twain enough energy in this portion to fill a separate book and Jim Sullivan and so many other characters who provide the windows to the submerged stories and secrets and lies of that most raucous of towns Buffalo, NY. This is a raw tale of heroes and villains, as only history better than fiction can reveal. In many ways Richard Sullivan has given us a true account of just what the American Dream was and still is poverty and living in violent extremes can be overcome with the kind of sheer fortitude the Sullivans represent. The timing of this novel could not be better. As many of the once middle class citizens of this country see the disillusion of their own history dissolve into a nation of them that have and them that have not, this story can provide a sense of history and inspiration. And while that may not have been Sullivan's intent on writing this book,

it can certainly serve to rev up the courage of many many people today Highly recommended reading for inspiration and for a plain old fashioned fascinating read Grady Harp

Reply



Nancy Koester Nancy Koester says:

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If you are from The Ward , whether first generation or 5th as I am , I believe you will find the First ward series to be well worth your time Other reviews complain that it is too much fact, or not enough I went into it as historic fiction main history intact, but with an interesting, personal fictional side story Little did I know that I would be jumping into my own family My great, grand uncle, Joseph Gavin, is involved in the story Changes in how he is portrayed, compared to family history, lead me to read the entire newspaper articles from the news of that time Political connections, unknown to me in the past, became clearer, leading me to re think my family s place in the Ward Yes, there is a cliff hanger ending Being a genealogist, I didn t run out for the next book which, of course, I did do I went to work Not only did I find out what happens, I made a family connection to the characters I then gave the books to my 93 year old father, who could not put them down Stories were told, relating to people, places, and the stories of the Ward I recommend this series to anyone who enjoys a good story.

Reply



Bill Bill says:

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I enjoyed this book, but it is far too overwritten The details are for the most part well done, but the author must have thought that his book would be considered a primary resource It is those very details that bog down the tale without exploration of the characters Although the characters are well presented, given interesting situations and enough depth that we care about them, we never feel as if they are clearly defined Because of this, as the story progresses, the narrative becomes lost in petty detail and the characters lack the dimension to keep us in the story.

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Richard Tolleson Richard Tolleson

says:

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Epic in every sense of the word I don't recall how I came by this book I thought it was historical fiction Turns out its literary nonfiction, and pretty entertaining at that The story of Buffalo during the last 60 years of the 18th century is fascinating It's also long I don't know how long it would be in print, but I daresay it would make a good doorstop Warning it ends on a cliffhanger, and there's a sequel.

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Tim Tim says:

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I enjoyed this novel, which the author appropriately described as a scrapbook of sorts. Despite a few insignificant editing errors, each chapter was well written and engaging. As a whole, the book suffered from the author's choice not to make choices. Mr. Sullivan simply included too much. For example, the chapters regarding Katie Hansen, though interesting and well composed, were irrelevant to the story. Personally, I was interested in the sections where the author got down into the weeds of historic incidents, such as the insights surrounding the Fenian invasion of Canada. However, some of these detailed accounts did greater harm than good to the rhythm of the novel. Additionally, I feel that Mr. Sullivan had made a marketing error in playing up the role of Mark Twain. The segment of the book that included Twain was, again, well done, and seems historically accurate, but Twain does not prove critical to the ongoing family drama. Since this was a novel, it may have helped to reintroduce Twain, or at least the Twain influence, explicitly in the life of Jim Sullivan. As a fictionalized account of one family and the subculture of Buffalo's main Irish neighborhood, *The First Wards* succeeds. As a novel, it needs to be re-edited. Overall, I liked the book, and I recommend it to my friends with Buffalo Irish roots.

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Hal Hal says:

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Don't waste your time on this book. I read all 394 pages of it and was thoroughly enjoying it, the story building up to what I thought would be a climactic conclusion when the story ended abruptly and I was left hanging with one of the main characters being carted away in an

ambulance. The next thing I read was Part II coming 2013 Nowhere was the reader ever told that this was only Part I Talk about a scam I ll never read another of Sullivan s books no matter what kind of glowing reviews he gets I d like to have back the several hours I invested in this book. Also the cover and teaser of the book are deceptive It is a picture of Mark Twain and implies he s a major part of this book Untrue his role is very minor.

Reply



Ken Ken says:

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It was interesting to read about Buffalo in the late 1800 s, you know, just a few years before I was born there It was fun trying to imagine the parts of the city that he described and, for the most part, they were places that I don t think I ve ever been It was an interesting story that could have been written a little better and there were a lot of editing errors, misspellings, etc. I will read the next installment when it s published because the characters are very interesting and I can appreciate the historical context I just wish it had been a little better written.

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Mary Regan Mary Regan says:

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If your family is from the Old First Ward in Buffalo, as my husband s is, you have to read this book You may recognize some of the names and places Otherwise I think it s an interesting story of 19th century urban Irish

life and politics Purports to be the factual story of the author s own ancestors.

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L L says:

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Poor fiction, good history This book is an historical fiction about life in Buffalo from about 1850 to 1900 It gives pretty nice accounts about what life was like for the working poor the politics, housing, hazards and small celebrations It will not make you long for peaceful long ago times.

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