

Ignatiev, Noel. (1995). *How the Irish became white* . New York: Routledge

As a White female of Irish-American heritage, I found this book important, challenging, and saddening. Using historical facts, individual profiles, and descriptions of the racialized politics, Ignatiev effectively traces the roots of the conflicts between Irish and Blacks. He shows the beginnings of the Irish Involvement in journalism, politics, union organizing, firefighting and policing. I learned about the choices the Irish made in a racialized New World, where to be aligned with Whites, they separated themselves from the Abolitionist movement. In America, the Irish were quick to react, fight and identify themselves White to escape the fate of the Blacks.

Group discussions of this book may evoke many emotions for Irish-Americans previously unaware of their racist history.

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