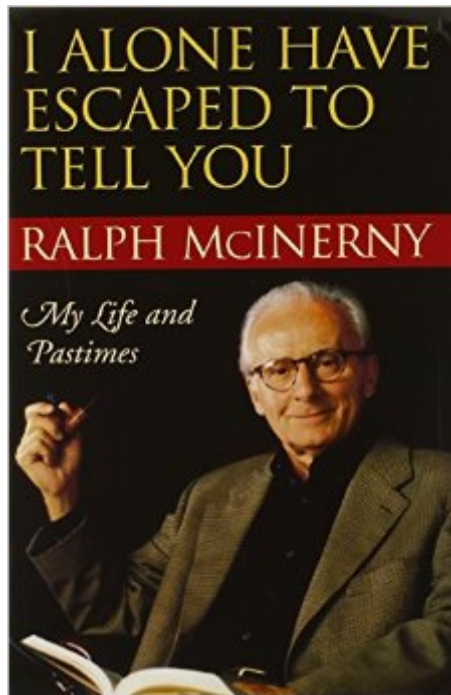


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# I Alone Have Escaped To Tell You: My Life And Pastimes



## Synopsis

With *I Alone Have Escaped to Tell You*, Ralph McInerny—a distinguished scholar, mystery writer, editor, publisher, and family man—delivers a thoroughly engaging memoir. In the course of his recollections, McInerny describes his childhood in Minnesota; his grammar school and seminary education, with his decision to leave the path toward ordination; his marriage to his beloved Connie and their active family life and travels; and his life as a fiction writer. We learn of his career as a Catholic professor of philosophy at Notre Dame, his views on the Catholic Church, his experiences as an editor and publisher of Catholic magazines and reviews, his involvement with the International Catholic University, and his thoughts on other Catholic writers. Part homage to his academic home for the last half century and part appreciation of the many significant friendships he has fostered over his life, McInerny's reminiscences beautifully convey his lively interest in the world and his gift for friendship and collegiality. Written in his characteristically elegant style, by turns charming, poignant, humorous, and revealing, *I Alone Have Escaped to Tell You* will delight McInerny's many devoted readers. Here is a memoir that is more than a chronicle of a full life lived within a Catholic intellectual milieu. With unique literary skills and the wisdom of seventy-five years, McInerny enlivens and interprets the major intellectual events of his time, delving into the past to understand the present. The result is the kind of book that future historians of culture will regard as a primary source. Modest and unassuming, McInerny fails to do justice to his own role in the intellectual life of the Church, a role as important as that of Chesterton and Belloc in a previous generation." --Jude P. Dougherty, Dean Emeritus, School of Philosophy, The Catholic University of America and Editor of the *Review of Metaphysics* "I picked this book up during a spare hour and hours later have scarcely been able to get back to anything else. This is a charming, bittersweet, witty, evocative, even romantic reminiscence of a wonderful life, teeming with children, penury, wild trips to Europe, sudden (and immense) success in writing (after many, many rejections), the love of a good woman and her common sense, besides and an incisive record of an amazing stretch of years from the Depression and World War II through Vatican Council II, and on into our own new century. Be prepared to weep a little, and laugh a little—it ought to be a movie. McInerny's masterpiece!" —Michael Novak, George Frederick Jewett Scholar, American Enterprise Institute

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A delightful autobiography -- one can only wish it were longer. The author's life has been full of adventures that most of us can experience only second-hand. Of particular interest may be the chapter on Vatican II and its aftermath, or the chapter delineating the problems of modernist philosophers and the Scholastic antidote. For many readers, especially those of the author's multitudinous mysteries, the chapter titled "Author" will be the best. It refers to several of McInerny's early novels, which though sadly out of print are well worth the trouble of tracking down in libraries. One would think that Notre Dame could employ a scholarship student to do the proofreading. Apparently only a spell-checker is used, as words occasionally appear under the guise of other words' spellings, but misspellings that coincide with no other word do not. This book deserved better. The upshot is that a few sentences have to be read several times over in order to be degarbled. But there are many more sentences worth rereading for their intrinsic interest -- I think you'll be glad to have read this book.

Ralph McInerny is best known for his Father Dowling series of mysteries. In his memoir, *I Alone Have Escaped to Tell You* he goes beyond a mere story about his life. He talks about his life, yet offers advice to aspiring authors on getting started, persevering in the face of rejection and handling success. He explains how to write a mystery story. His discussions on life and philosophy, a subject he teaches at Notre Dame, gives the readers reason to pause and think. And in some cases, a desire to look at some of the other books he mentions. Despite being a relatively short book, and a quick read, the information presented makes you go back and reread some sections looking for a different perspective. Well worth the time to read. I highly recommend it for writers, philosophers and people looking for a good story about an amazing life.

Ralph McInerney has only gained skill as a craftsman as he ages. This account is tightly written and carries the reader along through a remarkable life, but manages to be self-deprecating in the process. As a wordsmith, McInerney is unparalleled and having a dictionary in this journey might be wise. However, his style and grace makes the occasional unfamiliar term non-threatening. I would recommend this to anyone who loves the academic life or the life of the spirit. Stephanie Swee

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