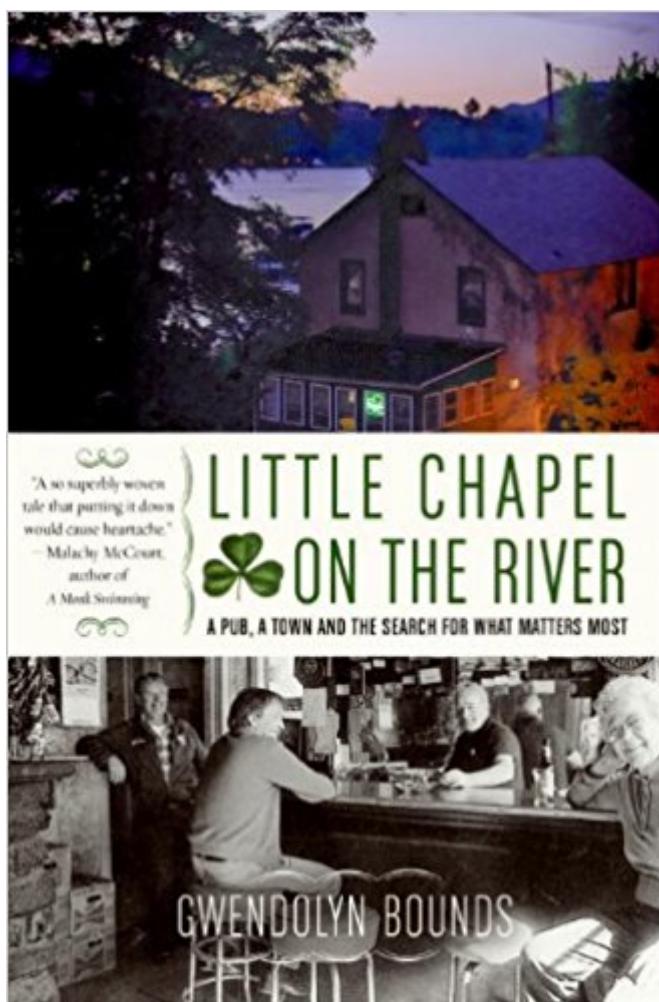


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Little Chapel On The River: A Pub, A Town And The Search For What Matters Most



Synopsis

Forced from her downtown Manhattan apartment by the terrorist attack of September 11, journalist Wendy Bounds was delivered to Guinan's doorstep -- a legendary Irish drinking hole and country store nestled along the banks of the Hudson River in the small town of Garrison, New York -- by a friend. Captivated by the bar's charismatic but ailing owner and his charming, motley clientele, Bounds uprooted herself permanently and moved to tiny Garrison, the picturesque river town they all call home. There she became one of the rare female regulars at the old pub and was quickly swept up into its rhythm, heartbeat, and grand history -- as related by Jim Guinan himself, the stubborn high priest of this little chapel. Surrounded by a crew of endearing, delightfully colorful characters who were now her neighbors and friends, she slowly finds her own way home. Beautifully written, deeply personal, and brilliantly insightful, Little Chapel on the River is a love story about a place -- and the people who bring it to life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bounds and her partner lived across the street from the World Trade Center; they both wrote for the Wall Street Journal and were getting ready to go to work when the planes struck the towers on 9/11. They made their way to friends uptown, and in the following months, they parked themselves in a variety of temporary accommodations, as their building was uninhabitable. One friend brought them to Guinan's, an old Irish bar in the small, upper Hudson River town of Garrison, N.Y. "and Bounds soon felt at home. She gradually let herself become enmeshed in the Guinan family saga, as well as in the intertwined tales of the regular customers. Before long, "the invisible red velvet rope" lifted,

and she was helping out at the bar and setting up shop when the aging owner was hospitalized for diabetes-related surgery, buying a ramshackle home nearby and generally becoming included in the Guinan extended family. Bounds's story isn't flashy or dramatic; it's as low-key as her new, non-Manhattan friends. It modestly reminds us that in this uncertain world, when you come to a place that speaks to you, you should hold it dear and treasure it while it lasts. Photos. Agent, David Black. (July) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A Metro North commuter line snakes out of New York City along the Hudson River, and one of its stops is a store with an attached tavern. The establishment's sociology is Bounds' topic, one she adopted serendipitously as a result of September 11. The terrorist attacks damaged her apartment and workplace, the Wall Street Journal; she and her partner found what they initially intended to be temporary refuge in the town of Garrison. She eventually moved there permanently, an outgrowth of her increasing familiarity with the tavern's proprietor, Irishman Jim Guinan, his family, and the bar's regulars. Over beers and smokes, their life stories bounce around the bar with the mock-insults of people who've known one another over the 40 years Guinan's been in business. The slower pace appeals to Bounds, and she adjusts to its rhythms, filling in behind the bar as the torch passes from Guinan to his son. Without gauzy romanticism, Bounds captures the warmth of the place and the rootedness it symbolizes. Gilbert TaylorCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

We had this book for our Book Club and I wasn't excited about reading it. Turns out it is one of my favorites for this year so far. The writing is outstanding. The story taps into our universal desire to find a place where we are welcome and not judged. The author's life was shaken badly by 9/11, and she finds herself yearning for... she doesn't know what until she stumbles into the Little Chapel, which before potential readers start thinking she found religion... the Little Chapel is an Irish bar. Part of the charm of the book is that the author is as non-judgmental about the denizens of the bar as they are of her. The yearning for "family," the desire for a place, the need for the wounds of 9/11 to be healed, the reassessment of a life... it's all there. You're going to love this book and probably will be planning a trip up the Hudson River to the Little Chapel.

As a little girl just before ww2 my family lived in Garrison N.Y.. My father worked for the Osborne estate. I started school at Garrison Free school and attended the Episcopal church mentioned in the

book. They were very happy years and this book brought back all my happy times. We moved back to upstate N.Y. after Pearl harbor. I am still friends with the girl I met first day of school though I have not seen her since 1942. Loved the way the author brought out the real feeling of this little town.

A beautifully written book encompassing the joys of being part of a "community" with people from all walks of life caring about you and for you. Was a great Book Club read as the discussion was very deep and very interesting.

If you loved "The Tender Bar", this story will enchant you and has the same light, sweet touch in its writing. The people are a great mix of sacred and profane but all seem willing to mix in and help out who ever has needs. The author becomes an important part of a small town community and heals her heart after her experiences on 9/11/01. I dreaded the thought of Jim dying before the end of the book, but he chugs along. Learning how the bar itself is run is fascinating and gives one great respect for all those folks who get up really early and work so very hard to keep our lives on track.

This is a book to treasure for its warm tale of how a place and its people can become a home, of how what matters most in life is warm and loving friendship, the caring concern that true friends offer one another, unconditionally. It also demonstrates, unknowingly, that our search for what matters most is more a matter of unexpected discovery, typically surprising us when we're searching the least. Wendy writes well, with sensitivity and savvy discernment. She focuses on a special place, Guinan's pub in Garrison, and she shares enough historical background to fill in between the gaps of what she learns firsthand. Overall, it's a thoughtful and heartfelt book that pulls a reader ever closer to the Hudson Valley. I often felt jealous of the author and her friends at the pub, wanting my own place where "everyone knows [my] name," as another quotes from "Cheers," wanting my place at the Guinan's. If I weren't so far away, and if gas prices weren't so ugly, I'd have planned a visit to Guinan's and be on my way by now. I'd like to sit a spell, share a few beers and few stories with the author. I would consider the time sacred, for that's what she's done for the pub and its people, memorializing their time together at "the little chapel on the river." Three cheers to Gwendolyn! What a fine tribute! I'm buying a round for everyone. Drink and be glad for all that's good in life ... and all that we can do to help one another. It's the unsolicited gestures that count, always.

Gwendolyn Bounds' Little Chapel on the River recounts the author's journey of reflection and

discovery after 9/11 and a life-altering - maybe fated - stop for a beer at a hole in the wall pub in a bucolic town by the Hudson River. The souls she encounters are lovingly and endearingly represented in these pages, and it doesn't take long to figure out how one beer turned into some of the best years of Bounds' early life. I highly recommend this charming read.

Buying the book again. Nostalgia. Wendy, you had us all fooled, but you caught the people in your soul. Roger and your chimney, that got me...LOL . The building still stands, but now you can't get a cup of coffee or a beer on Garrison's Landing. But that was then, not what it is now, because you're not going to Guinans anymore. Can always go to GAC and say Howdy to Libby tho

Sometimes Life throws us a curve, and we land somewhere we didn't expect to be. And that place turns out to be the home we should have been looking for all along. That's what happened to NYC residents Wendy Bounds and Kathryn Kranhold in the aftermath of 9/11. Their post-traumatic experiences eventually put them in Garrison, a small Hudson River settlement 50 miles north of Grand Central Station. What makes Garrison most memorable is a combination store-and-bar called Guinan's (GUY-nenz). Named after proprietor Jim Guinan, the building serves as a newspaper outlet for rail commuters, a refreshment stand for thirsty West Pointers, a monthly mecca of Irish ballads for local musicians, and the social center of the community. How this family business got started and keeps on going is the real story, and it comes to light now because Wendy is a Wall Street Journal reporter. Her journalistic instinct led her to take notes and record conversations; her heart led her to a real estate agent to make permanent her connection with the people and the area. The CHEERS theme song got it right: You want to be where everyone knows your name. A warm, beautiful, compelling, and true example of sense of place.

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