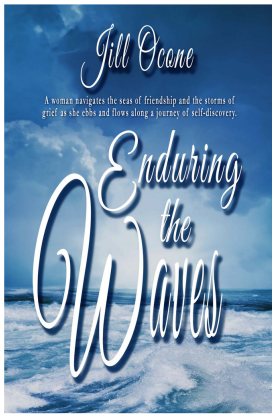


# *Enduring the Waves*

A Novel by Jill Ocone

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION  
GUIDE FOR READERS AND  
BOOK CLUBS

*With Exclusive Behind the Scenes  
Content and Bonus Material!*



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## Beyond the Pages - The Story Behind the Story

I traveled to Dublin for the first time during the summer of August 2014, eight months after losing a cherished friend. On three separate occasions, I swear I saw her face in the crowd (twice on Grafton Street and once near Trinity College). She was an avid James Joyce aficionado but had never been to Ireland despite being of Irish descent.

One night in late 2015, I was jolted awake after dreaming about an old woman who said to me, "Once you write CHAPTER ONE, everything will fall into place." There was a symbol in my dream, one I had never seen before, and I scribbled a very rough replica of it.

Turns out it was a Triskele/Triskelion.

Both the symbol and the phrase "Chapter One" would mysteriously appear in my life countless times from that point forward. The universe used many additional signs to guide me to Dublin three more times in the summers of 2016, 2017, and 2018. I had no idea what the hell I was doing there, but I trusted I was being led to my purpose. On my first trip, I planned to visit the James Joyce Centre and the James Joyce Tower and Museum, but I stumbled into innumerable additional fortuitous experiences and fell in love with Dublin more and more with each visit. My trips inspired me to begin writing what was then titled "Finding Shannon" in 2017.

When I finished my manuscript, I queried it as "Chapter One-A Novel" for a little over four years. The Wild Rose Press offered me a traditional publishing contract in February 2023, and after consulting with my editorial team, we agreed to change its title to "Enduring the Waves."

The wavelike appearance of the triskelion's three spirals and the trials the main character, Kelly Lynch, endures make "Enduring the Waves" the perfect title for her compelling story. The revised title also reflects the novel's growth into its own identity. While there may be subtle similarities between Kelly Lynch and me, I am the author, not the main character. As such, *Enduring the Waves* is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are either the product of my imagination or are used fictitiously, and any resemblance to actual persons living or dead, business establishments, events, or locales, is entirely coincidental.

Please use the questions found in this guide to guide you into a deeper experience while reading "Enduring the Waves." And with so many books available, thank you so much for selecting to read it!

With Gratitude,  
Jill

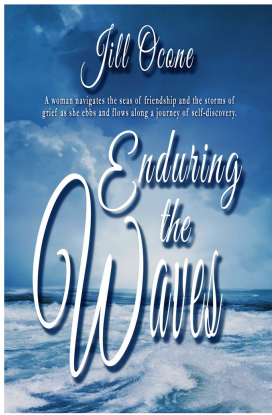
### THEMES

- friendship
- life and death
- darkness and light
- navigating the mysteries of grief
- pursuing one's passion
- searching for meaning
- signs from the universe

### KEYWORDS

author, beach, Celtic symbols, courage, Dublin, family conflict, female protagonist, friendship, fun, Ireland, James Joyce, Jersey Shore/New Jersey, journey, loyalty, new beginnings, second chances, self discovery, surfing, teacher, travel, triskelion, women's fiction, writer





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1. *Enduring the Waves* is set during the mid-2000s and follows Kelly Lynch's transition from a new educator to a writer. What are your thoughts about her character, her marriage, her career, and her ambitions? How did your perspective about Kelly change over the course of the novel?
2. The symbol of the triskele/triskelion is prominently featured throughout Kelly's story. The triple spiral is known to symbolize trinities, such as past, present, and future, and life, death, and rebirth, which correspond to the titles of the three parts of the novel. Discuss how Kelly navigates each part of the novel. What part of her story did you most relate to, and why?
3. How does Smuggler's Inlet function as both a setting and a character? In what ways is Kelly influenced by the location?
4. Consider the role alcohol played in Kelly's past and how it affects her in the present. Do you see her as weak or strong as a result, and why?
5. Kelly carries a great deal of trauma from her fractured relationship with her parents. What surprised you the most about her mother or her father?
6. Examine the friendship between Kelly and Shannon. How is one a catalyst for the other? How does their relationship defy the cliché of toxic female friendships?
7. Shannon's dream was to go to Dublin, while Kelly's was to write. Can you think of a dream you have (or one that you abandoned long ago) that you could revive and focus on making a reality? What are the steps you'd need to take? When will you take that first step, and how?
8. Consider Kelly's marriage to Wayne and the fact she never took his name. Why do you think she stayed with him? What were her faults in the relationship, and how could she have remedied them?
9. Kelly overcame many setbacks over the course of her story. Which one impressed you the most, and why? How about the least?

*Continued On Next Page*



10. The universe used many signs to get Kelly to travel to Dublin. Did you ever experience any so-called “signs” that led you to do something?
11. The butterfly is another subtle symbol found within the novel’s pages. How does Kelly change after her Dublin trip, and what do you think was the most important impetus fueling that change? Has a place you’ve visited ever profoundly changed you? Describe your experience and compare/contrast it to Kelly’s.
12. Kelly is reborn when she finally releases the words buried inside of her for far too long. Can you think of a time when writing helped you?
13. One of the novel’s themes is darkness and light, and at times, Kelly fails to see the light that is shining right in front of her. Recall a time when either darkness or light played a role in your life. What advice do you think Kelly would give you as you went through it?
14. Think about Irish author James Joyce’s role in the novel. How did he most influence Kelly? What can you take away from his example, if anything?
15. What were Jame’s motives for helping Kelly? What did you like or dislike the most about him?
16. On page 161, Jame says, “If any good came from Mam’s death, I now understand the value of life and I revere every moment, whether it is good, or bad, or even if I don’t know what in Jaysus is going on.” How can you more fully appreciate the value of the present moment in your daily life?
17. “The colorless atmosphere mirrors my revelation that, at times, sadness and melancholy must coexist with positivity and purpose.” (Page 213). How does this quote challenge the “good vibes only” mantra that we’ve been taught to adopt? Why should all vibes matter?
18. Discuss Kelly’s choice to move in with her father towards the end of the novel. Do you think she made the right choice to abandon her job as an educator? Why or why not?
19. React to the last lines of the epilogue on page 231: “Within every moment exists the potential for a new and exciting episode to begin. Every sunrise will be an awakening, every wave a lesson, and every sunset a victory. My journey is my purpose, and I will never stop riding its waves.”
20. From the author’s acknowledgements: To you, the reader, thank you for choosing to read *Enduring the Waves*. I hope you find a kernel of inspiration within its pages and connect with Kelly’s story. Describe a connection you made to Kelly’s journey and/or a kernel of inspiration you found within the novel’s pages.

### *Suggestions for Further Reading*

*A Room of One’s Own* by Virginia Woolf  
*Writers and Lovers* by Lily King  
*Alternate Remedies for Loss* by Joanna Cantor  
*Brooklyn* by Colm Toibin  
*Dubliners, The Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man, Ulysses* by James Joyce

