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A tale of adventure and survival.

In 1850, Irish lad, Ean McClaud, steps off the ship, his legs in shackles. Falsely convicted, he steps into serving his sentence in Tasmania's Port Arthur Penal Colony.

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...written with a professional's impeccable attention to historical fact...Tasman lays out, in unflinching detail, an unforgettable testament to the resilience of the human spirit.

> **—EmilyHill,** author of Jenkins: Confederate Blockade Runner and Ghosts of White Raven Estate.

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Historical Fiction

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Tasman—an Innocent Convict's Struggle for Freedom captures the reader's interest with far more than a tale of adventure. It chronicles Ean McClaud's desperate bid for survival and exoneration against overwhelming odds. The young Irish lad, falsely accused of stealing a handkerchief in 1850 England, finds himself enslaved on a prison vessel sailing to the brutal penal colony in Port Arthur, Tasmania, to face a three-year sentence at hard labor.

On the six-month voyage, he and two other convicts vow to support one another through their years of imprisonment, but penitentiary life separates them. Alone, Ean toils under a load of arduous physical labor, all the while professing his innocence. His bunkmate, a lifer who has learned prison survival the hard way, urges him to keep his head down, shut his mouth, and do his time. Not one to listen to advice and frantic to get his life back and return to his beloved Fiona in England, he hatches an ingenious escape plan. Will he gain the freedom he craves, or will he face life imprisonment or worse when his plan fails? This fast-paced story will keep you engrossed all the way to its shocking end.

Though based on historical facts, Eger uses her imagination to take us inside Ean's mind as he struggles to survive. Follow his journey from England to Port Arthur. Discover the future his actions carve out for him in this infamous land of no return.

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Award-winning author Paddy Eger has done it again. On the heels of her highly acclaimed ballet trilogy comes her intriguing trip into history, where she recounts the conviction of innocent teenager Ean McClaud and his journey through the corrupt British judicial system of the mid-1850s. Financially unable to buy his freedom, the Irish lad finds himself on a prison ship bound for the brutal penal colony in Port Arthur, Tasmania, where flogging, food deprivation, and hard labor are daily realities.

Motivated by actual convict records discovered during her vacation to that area, *Tasman* provides the perfect work to showcase Eger's unique ability to craft powerful characters who step up and invite readers into their lives in this page turner you won't soon forget.

"Once I visited the remains of the penal colony and toured the museum," she says, "I knew I had to investigate the prison and write Ean's story. It wouldn't let me go until I shared what I'd learned."

Her previous award-winning trilogy arose from her years of dancing. All three—84 Ribbons, When the Music Stops: Dance On, and Letters to Follow: a Dancer's Adventure—follow the early careers of two young dancers as they experience success, failure, and daily struggles while pursuing their dreams to become prima ballerinas.

Eger also excels in the nonfiction arena. Her *Educating America* book and materials overflow with easy-to-use ideas for teachers, adult assistants, and parents who work with students; they also provide valuable information for the workshops she leads. The practical ideas are grounded in her years of experience as an elementary teacher and trainer.

In her free time, Eger works as a volunteer in classrooms and enjoys travel. She and her family live in western Washington.

Early Praise for TASMAN

I'm always on the lookout for well-written, thoughtful, fresh novels that would appeal to both boys and girls. Tasman fits this description! Readers learn a part of history most are unfamiliar with as they follow the journey of one determined young man.

As a literacy consultant, I am thrilled to have this novel to add to my "recommended must-reads" for older teens and adults. Kudos to author Paddy Eger for sharing her engaging story with us.

-Marilyn Melville-Irvine, Secondary ELA Consultant

A captivating journey about injustice, courage, love, and freedom. Tasman captured my soul.

-Dusty Cavaliere, writer

Ean McClaud's attempt to escape the inhumane island prison off the coast of Australia and gain the freedom he so desperately desires is a captivating tale the reader will not soon forget.

-Nancy Jo Jenkins, author of Coldwater Revival

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