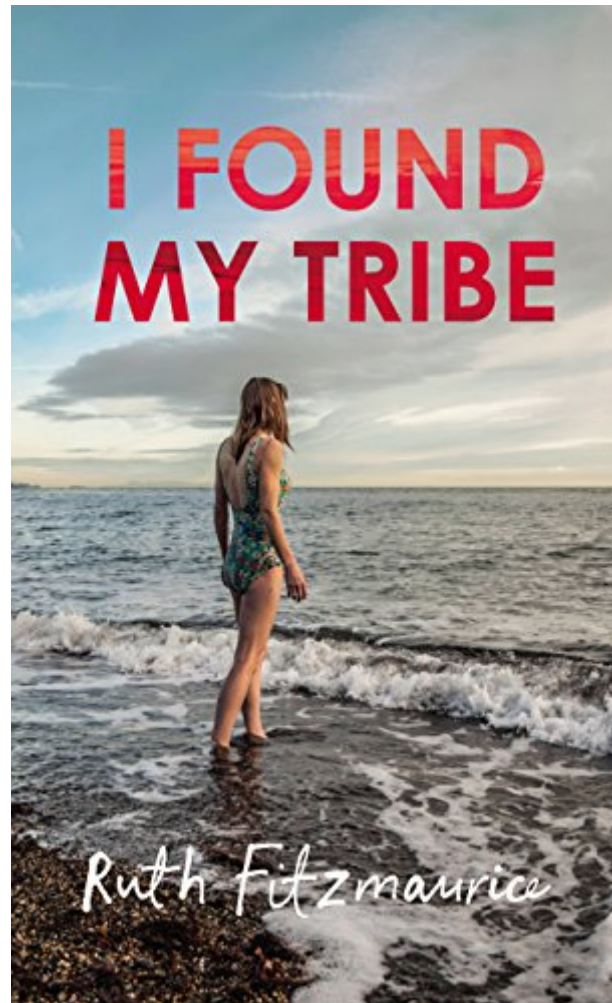




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I Found My Tribe



Synopsis

'One of the year's most arresting, humbling and acute memoirs. It is a catch-in-the-throat, life-affirming work that you want to gulp down in one and recommend to all your friends. Fitzmaurice tells her story in sparkling prose that is as sinewy as her new sea-strengthened body, and as admirable and boundless as her spirit' Sunday Times

Ruth's tribe are her lively children and her filmmaker husband, Simon, who has Motor Neurone Disease and can only communicate with his eyes. Ruth's other tribe are the friends who gather at the cove in Greystones, Co. Wicklow, and regularly throw themselves into the freezing cold water, just for kicks. The Tragic Wives' Swimming Club, as they jokingly call themselves, meet to cope with the extreme challenges life puts in their way, not to mention the monster waves rolling over the horizon. Swimming is just one of the daily coping strategies as Ruth fights to preserve the strong but now silent connection with her husband. As she tells the story of their marriage, via diagnosis to their current precarious situation, Ruth also charts her passion for sea swimming culminating in a midnight swim under the full moon on her wedding anniversary.

An invocation to all of us to love as hard as we can, and live even harder, *I Found My Tribe* is an urgent and uplifting letter to a husband, family, friends, the natural world and the brightness of life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Very well written book. Ruth interweaved stories from her childhood and her early relationship with Simon with the current difficulties she faces now that her husband has MND. One of their boys described how their heart fell into their stomach in their childish description of 'being in love' and there were many moments in this book when my heart fell into my stomach, but through sadness thinking about the difficulties some people have to contend with. People get through tough times with the support of others and Ruth describes well how not only their family, their wider circle of friends and her swimming buddies have supported her. I hope in time that Ruth Fitzmaurice can write more and Simon can direct more films.

Well Done Ruth. Read it all in one night. Not easy getting a book published along with everything else you fit into your day!! The trip to Australia sounded amazing. You & Simon were fantastic to make that journey with three smallies...so it was great you had such a good time. Hope you write another book someday.

Brave book by a brave woman

Very moving and honest book and stayed with me even after reading it . Keep wondering how Ruth and her tribe are getting on. Think Ruth is amazing - think her husband is too

Gripping true love story of strength in adversity and courage to face the future.

I wanted to love this memoir, but in the end I found it flawed. Perhaps it would have worked better as a much shorter magazine article. As written, it is often repetitious--lots of crying scenes, lots of swimming scenes. Another issue for me was that Simon's computer voice is mentioned a number of times, but little of what he has to say is included in the book. Even though this is his wife's story about living with Simon's illness, it didn't work well for me without Simon. I wanted more about him and a bit less about tears and swimming.

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