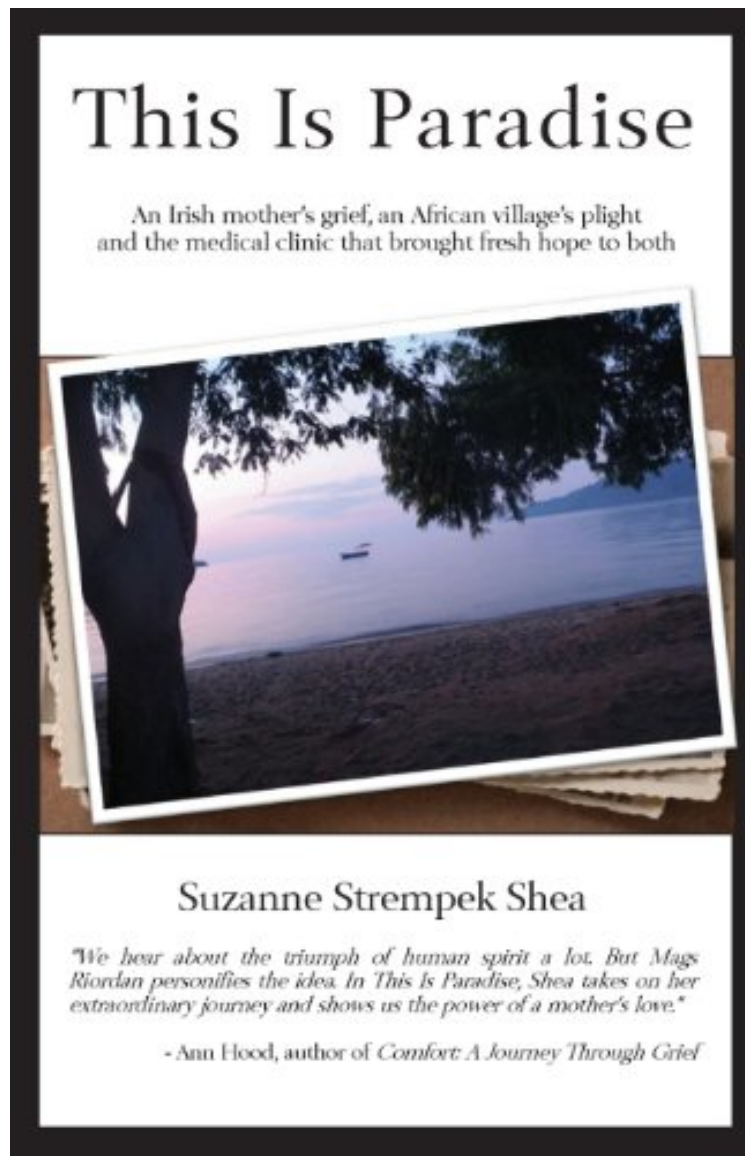


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This is Paradise: An Irish mother's grief, an African village's plight, and the medical clinic that brought fresh hope to both

Suzanne Strempek Shea

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Suzanne Strempek Shea : This is Paradise: An Irish mother's grief, an African village's plight, and the medical clinic that brought fresh hope to both before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised This is Paradise: An Irish mother's grief, an African village's plight, and the medical clinic that brought fresh hope to both:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. an inspiring and well-told storyBy a Florida readerThis Is Paradise is the inspiring story of how an ordinary Irish woman transformed her grief over the loss of her son into good for others. Mags Riordan's son Billy accidentally drowns in a lake in the African country of Malawi. Initially moved to start a school in the village where her son died, Riordan visits and discovers a crucial need for medical services in the area. In this well-researched book, author Suzanne Strempek Shea tells the story of Mags--both in Ireland and Africa--and shows how she overcomes her grief to make a significant impact on her adopted nation. This is a must-read for all who hope to make a difference in the world.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I bought this because I am a fan of Suzanne's ...By PAinPAI bought this because I am a fan of Suzanne's work, both fiction and nonfiction. In doing so, I learned about a courageous woman who has really made a difference in the world. In addition, I gained insight into the plight of the citizens of Malawi and their culture. I learned a lot and feel motivated to take action on things important to me.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A happy book about a sad situation.By D. A. TerryA very interesting book -- the premise sounds tragic: an Irish woman who has suffered the loss of three children goes to Africa to visit the site where her young adult son drowned. And . . . she ends up starting a foundation and building a health clinic in this remote area. She spends most of each year in Africa, where she devotes her energy and expertise to the project.

Your brakes fail and your car plunges from a pier into a February-frigid harbor. You are thrown to safety but your four-month old daughter, trapped in her car seat, drowns. Four years after that horror, you return from a trip to the shore and lift your four-month-old son from his carrier only to realize he's dead, too, a victim of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. Twenty-two years later, your 25-year old son drowns while swimming in a Malawi, Africa lake. How do you survive that first death, never mind the second, or the third? Ask Mags Riordan of County Kerry, Ireland. Only the blessing of her son Billy, the boy who later drowned, carried Mags through those first two deaths. Her reaction to Billy's loss caused Mags to do something beyond simple survival, though it caused her to do something transformative, and remarkable. Returning to Malawi on the one-year anniversary of Billy's death, she saved the life of a local boy who would otherwise have died from a simple infection, and realized the desperate need for a medical clinic. With virtually no relevant experience, medical or otherwise, Mags founded a clinic that to date has saved and transformed the lives of tens of thousands of Malawians. If any of us wonders "What can one person do?" we need only look to Mags Riordan as a living, breathing example of someone who put aside her despair, and her comfort zone, in an effort to help and heal, proving the world truly can be changed, even by just two hands, and one single broken heart. This Is Paradise is the story of an Irish mothers grief, an African villages plight, and the remote medical clinic that brought fresh hope to both.