Island Of Hope: The Journey To America And The Ellis Island Experience by Martin Sandler

On January 1, 1892, a fifteen-year-old Irish girl named Annie Moore made history when she became the first person to be processed at a new immigrant station at Ellis Island in New York Harbor. In the next 62 years more than 12 million other immigrants would follow. Many of these newcomers would be pushed into America—fleeing religious persecution, political oppression, or economic hardships in their native lands. Millions of others would be pulled into the United States by the promise of new opportunities. Once they arrived at Ellis, they were put through the traumatic experience.

Features:
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My Personal Review:
I picked this up at a school book fair and could NOT put it down until I had read from cover to cover. I thought I knew about Ellis Island. Turns out I didn’t have a clue about what a massive operation it was. This is a book about heroes. Brave people who just wanted to work hard and improve their lives. I teared up several times while reading this book. The author did a great job in putting you right there with the people while they slowly worked their way through the immigration process. The author himself adds to the story with his final testament (another lump in the throat!!) With all our flaws, its nice to remember that America is still the best place in the world to live.

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