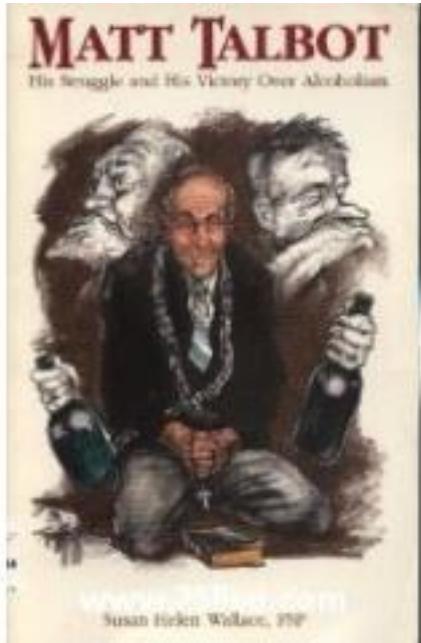


Matt Talbot: His Struggle, His Victory over Alcoholism



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CHAPTER 1
Messenger Boy
The sky was clear and the air felt crisp as twelve-year-old Matthew Talbot walked briskly down the narrow streets of Dublin. He was excited today and felt grown up as he hurried toward the company of Edward and John Burke, wine merchants. The boy stopped at the edge of the property and let his eyes survey his new place of employment. What Matt was doing was not unusual for the son of poor Irish parents. He wanted to work to help support the family. Besides his year of schooling with the Christian Brothers had been enough school to last him for a lifetime! he had decided. He could read and write if he struggled and forced himself beyond

what he wanted to. But now school was finished for him and he was going to do something important. As Matt approached the Burke Company office he could imagine the face of his mother glowing with pride as he would bring home his first pay. He imagined the joy his father would feel at Matt's accomplishment. He knew his father would whisper to Mrs. Talbot that their son was mature far beyond his years. It was a good feeling to be grown up.

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目录:

[Matt Talbot: His Struggle, His Victory over Alcoholism](#) [下载链接1](#)

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