

[PDF] Country Girl: A Memoir

Edna O'Brien - pdf download free book



Books Details:

Title: Country Girl: A Memoir
Author: Edna O'Brien
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Description:

From *Starred Review* The doyenne of contemporary Irish letters did not enjoy a straight-line rise to international fame and critical regard. In fact, for many years, O'Brien's novels were banned in her native Ireland for indecency. Now, of course, in more relaxed and open-minded times, her fiction (brilliant short stories as well as novels) is seen for what it always was, richly illuminating and, yes, candid depictions of women's needs and desires, rendered with no sentimentality or salaciousness. Born into a rural family that once knew wealth but at the time of her birth had only memories of better times, Edna had a precocious interest in being a writer. Convent schooling is remembered in this absorbing memoir as "dour." Relatively sophisticated Dublin beckoned. She answered the call by apprenticing in a chemist's shop in the capital, all the while "convinced she would meet poets and

that one day she would be admitted into the world of letters." She and the husband she had acquired moved to London (her marriage was to prove untenable), and there she began writing in earnest and with success. At this point in her remembrance, her memoir shifts into something different in substance and tone. Her unembellished Irish upbringing gives way to the glamour of the celebrity life she led in London. Still, her book is a beautifully expressed testament to a writer's tenacity. -- Brad Hooper

Review Praise for Country Girl

"Ms. O'Brien has long and correctly been recognized as among the greatest Irish writers of the 20th century. She's had an outsize life to match her outsize talent."--**Dwight Garner, New York Times**

"O'Brien's account of her life is completely irresistible."--**Kate Tuttle, Boston Globe**

"O'Brien's religion has been literature; to it she has remained devout, with a fervor that is contagious...She is no saint. She is an icon."--**Stacy Schiff, New York Times Book Review**

"In prose as lyrical and exacting as any in O'Brien's fiction, *Country Girl* evokes both the solitariness and the adventure of a life devoted to writing."--**Megan O'Grady, Vogue**

"Edna O'Brien has made of her memories something of both precision and depth, a book that, letting us see her as she was, jumps with an all-consuming curiosity from one lucidly narrated event to another."--**Philip Roth**

"In *Country Girl* there is great honesty and struggle, and joy and sorrow leaping together--pure life!"--**Alice Munro**

"You must suffer to become yourself, and it doesn't get easier. I took heart from *Country Girl*, both as the self-portrait of a great prose stylist, and an exemplary female survivor."--**Judith Thurman, "Best Books of 2012," The New Yorker**

"Flashes of prodigious beauty and power."--**Hilary Mantel**

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