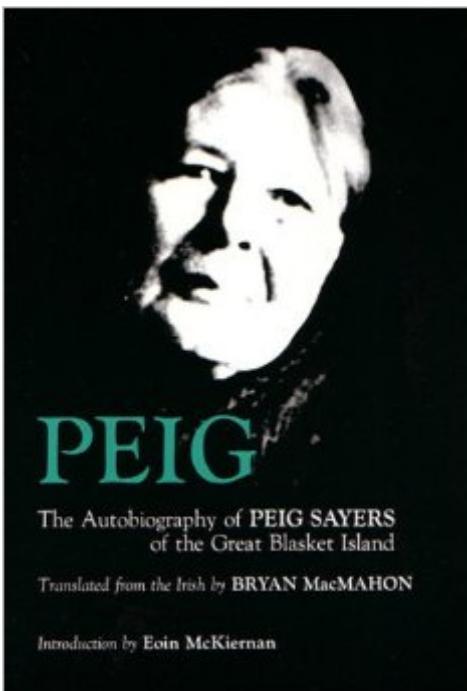


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Peig: The Autobiography Of Peig Sayers Of The Great Blasket Island (Irish Studies)



Synopsis

Book by Sayers, Peig

Book Information

Series: Irish Studies

Paperback

Publisher: Syracuse University Press (May 1, 1991)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0815602588

ISBN-13: 978-0815602583

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 0.6 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (17 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This is the story...of a lovely lady! This book was the bane of every school child in Ireland for decades. It used to be on the curriculum so that, despite the fact that you would have to grit your teeth to read it, it was a bestseller in Ireland. It tells the story of Peig Sayers, a woman who lived in the poor and rural south-west of Ireland in the early 20th century. In this book, everyone was poor, no-one had anything, people were evicted from their hovels, life was hard, people died young, children were barefoot, the livestock slept in the house, it was always raining....well, you get the idea. Peig was born on the mainland of Ireland, but married a fisherman who lived on the Blasket islands, a small collection of islands a few miles off the coast of Kerry. Tough as things were on the mainland, things were tougher still here! You were lashed by the Atlantic, the wind could blow you off the cliffs, and you could be drowned while you were fishing, and that was on a good day! The book tells of her struggle to be accepted by the islanders, how she brought up her large family, how she coped with the death of some of her sons fishing, and the folklore, stories, and culture all around her. This book, and others like it from other authors on other islands ("The Islander" being another good example) formed a literary style which became known as "the poor mouth". They all share similar characteristics as they described the oppressive hardships suffered stoically by the people. Even now in Ireland, anyone whining about their bad situation would be dismissed as "putting on the poor mouth" and everyone would know what was meant.

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