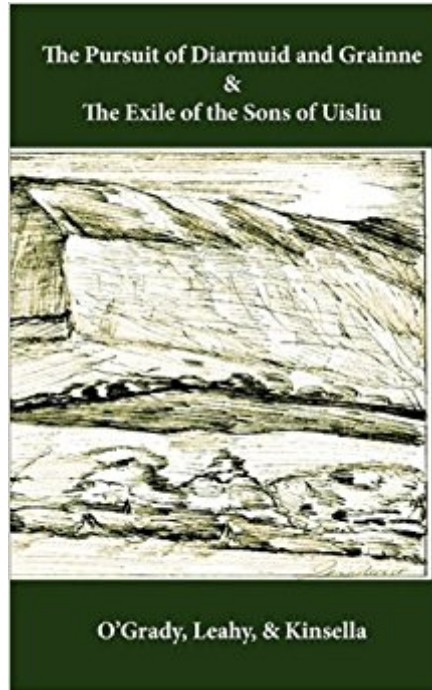


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The Pursuit Of Diarmuid And Grainne / The Exile Of The Sons Of Uisliu



Synopsis

For a thousand years and more audiences have delighted in these Irish tales, wondering at the elopement of the impetuous Grainne with the heroic Diarmuid and heartbroken by the fateful flight of Deirdre. Two strong women take control of their destinies and both pay grievous prices.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (4 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This is not a simple OCR knock-off of Standish O'Grady's Pursuit of Giarmuid and Grainne. Kinsella has thoroughly modernized the text, updated footnotes, and included lines that O'Grady declined to translate from the Irish. He has also provided a thorough and readable introduction to this old Irish tale. If you want to read a faithful rendition of a hard-to-find Fenian Tale, this is an excellent text. Also included is an updated version of A. H Leay's translation of the Ulster Cycle story of Deirdre. Packaging these related tales together makes good sense. Recommended for anyone interested in reading early Irish literature.

The Pursuit of Diarmuid and Grainne, a popular Irish tale with a thousand year tradition, survives in more than forty manuscript versions. Nearly all follow the same basic storyline: Fionn, Grainne, and Diarmuid are bound unwillingly in a triangle of love and jealousy. Most versions conclude shortly after the fated death of Diarmuid. This particular version, and a minority of others, keeps the story alive for one more plot twist, the return of Grainne to her original betrothed. One recent editor is convinced that this cyclical ending is neither original nor standard. Other scholars describe it as characteristic of early Irish storytelling. Versions without Grainne's final return support romantic and

heroic readings: the love between Diarmuid and Grainne is strongly drawn, and the death of Diarmuid, while sorrowful, is untainted. On the other hand, Grainne's final, surprising action in this version provides a disconcerting climax to the tale. The struggle for power, a theme found throughout the tale, is strongly reinforced, as is a pattern of misogyny. And yet this ending also hints at an older, regenerative role played by Grainne. Think of her as an earth goddess: the king may die, but she must endure.

This piece of literature offers deep characters, an interesting plot and feats that will amaze you. This tale gives a portrait of people that are exalted and bound, uplifted and destroyed by their bonds and obligations. The fact that it is so obscure makes it an even better treat. This arrived in great condition in a prompt manner. It was well worth the money.

Fun, easy read.

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