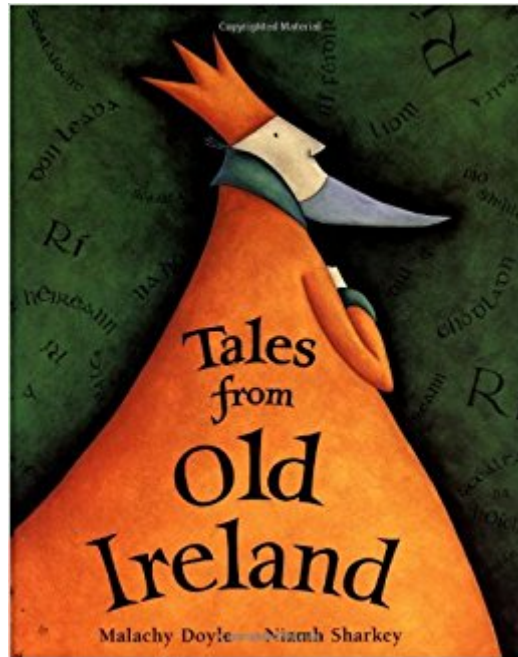




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Tales From Old Ireland



Synopsis

This enchanting collection of favorite Irish folk tales deserves to be read aloud at every hearth. Described by Malachy Doyle in captivating language, the larger-than-life characters, dramatic landscapes, and magical happenings of all the tales, including the famous legend of the bewitched Children of Lir, are also brought vividly to life by the luminous art of Niamh Sharkey, making this a book that will transport readers to another world for many happy hours.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 13 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Tales from Old Ireland contains seven classic stories, beautifully retold by Malachy Doyle in 90 big pages. Some of the tales will be instantly familiar: "Fair, Brown, and Trembling," for example, is a straightforward version of the Cinderella story right down to the lost shoe. Others are much less well known, like the tale of the fisherman, Jack Doherty, who always wanted to meet a Merrow (a man who lives beneath the sea). Niamh Sharkey's delightfully quirky illustrations (also seen in *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *The Gigantic Turnip*) are simple and striking; a few take up a full page, and smaller ones are scattered throughout the text. While culturally specific (and complete with a pronunciation guide for names and a few unusual words), *Tales of Old Ireland* has universal appeal and should occupy shelf-space in every child's imagination. (Ages 5 and older) --Richard Farr

Northern Ireland native Doyle (*Jody's Beans*) celebrates his country's centuries-old oral legacy in this collection of seven stories. Traditional tales, such as "The Twelve Wild Geese" (which parallels the structure of the Brothers Grimm's "The Six Swans") and a Cinderella retelling, "Fair, Brown and

Trembling," share space with some highly original individuals (e.g., the title characters in "Son of an Otter, Son of a Wolf"), and all retain a lyrical turn of phrase ("Will you do nothing to lighten our sorrow?" one of the cursed offspring asks the evil queen in "The Children of Lir"). Doyle, a conversational raconteur, wisely includes a pronunciation key for proper names that appear in the stories as well as notes on the background of the entries. Sharkey's (Jack and the Beanstalk) playfully stylized oil and gesso paintings complement the fanciful quality of the tales. Spot art breaks up the pages, and each story features one full-size painting that captures the heart of the tale. For "The Twelve Wild Geese," 12 quilt-like squares show the birds around the edges, while a quartet of interior squares show the key characters and knitting needles for the birds' sweaters. The artist also distinguishes each tale with a unique border and its own sophisticated, muted palette. Ages 10-up. (Oct.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This little book is filled with amazing, beautiful illustrations and entertaining stories. Anyone interested in Irish culture and folk-lore will enjoy this book. However, while this book is a fun read for older children and adults, the content of one or two of the stories might be a little bit intense for younger children, so be sure to preview the stories before reading it to the little ones. I especially like the pronunciation guide in the front for Irish names and words, which can be very difficult, and the reference page at the end that explains the origins of each story. Also, my edition came with audio c-d's of the stories.

My 10 year old son loves listening to these stories ! The Irish voice and music make it fun and the tales are enjoyable!

I saw this book in the library at Trinity College in Dublin Ireland when we were vacationing there last week. So I ordered it to read to my grand daughter when I returned. So far we have shared the first three stories and enjoyed them.

I don't care how much effort goes into those written pronunciation guides, you really can't beat a book with Gaelic terms that is accompanied by a CD recording!!!

Dreary lyrics for children

A beautiful book that includes 2 CDs with the tales told by wonderful story tellers. My daughter loves

these stories and listens to the over and over and the illustrations are beautiful.

My son enjoys this book and CD set. I really enjoy some of the stories, as well as the narrator's enthralling renditions. However some of the stories are a bit violent for my tastes.

I really wanted to like this, but the stories are really dark for children. Many stories have unresolved tragedy and very sad, bleak things happen to innocent characters. I suppose the book is being true to the folk tales, but bedtime stories these are not.

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