

On An Irish Island

On an Irish Island Ireland's Islands The Island of the White Cow Stark's History and Guide to Barbados and the Caribbee Islands Island of the White Cow The Ancient British and Irish Churches Live of the Irish Saints, with Special Festivals, and the Commemorations of Holy Persons Christian Inscriptions in the Irish Language Early Christian Architecture in Ireland A school manual of modern geography. Physical and political Irish Builder and Engineer The Journal of the Kilkenny and South-East of Ireland Archaeological Society A Short History of the English People Madeira and the Canary islands, a guide A Treatise on Sixteen Names of Ireland ... Edited by Rev. James O'Leary 1714-1719 The Historye of the Bermudaes Or Summer Islands The Encyclopædia Britannica The Irish National Invincibles and Their Times Commentaries on the History of England Robert Kanigel Peter Somerville-Large Deborah Tall James Henry Stark Deborah Tall William Cathcart O'Hanlon John Canon (Irish Catholic priest) Margaret Stokes Margaret Stokes John Richardson (vicar of St. Mary's hospital, Ilford.) Kilkenny and South-East of Ireland Archaeological Society John Richard Green Alfred Samler Brown Edmund Lewes Lenthal SWIFT Great Britain. Public Record Office John H. Lefroy Patrick Joseph Percy Tynan Montagu Burrows

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on an irish island is a love letter to a vanished way of life in which robert kanigel the highly praised author of the man who knew infinity and the one best way tells the story of the great blasket a wildly beautiful island off the west coast of ireland renowned during the early twentieth century for the rich communal life of its residents and the unadulterated irish they spoke with the irish language vanishing all through the rest of ireland the great blasket became a magnet for scholars and writers drawn there during the gaelic renaissance and the scene for a memorable clash of cultures between modern life and an older sometimes sweeter world slipping away kanigel introduces us to the playwright john millington synge some of whose characters in the playboy of the western world were inspired by his time on the island carl marstrander a norwegian linguist who gave his place on norway s olympic team for a summer on the blasket marie louise sjoestedt a celtic studies scholar fresh from the sorbonne and central to the story george thomson a british classicist whose involvement with the island and its people we follow from his first visit as a twenty year old to the end of his life on the island they met a colorful coterie of men and women with whom they formed lifelong and life changing friendships there s tomás o crohan a stoic fisherman one of the few islanders who could read and write irish who tutored many of the incomers in the language s formidable intricacies and became the blasket s first published writer maurice o sullivan a good natured prankster and teller of stories whose memoir twenty years a growing became an irish classic and peig sayers whose endless repertoire of earthy tales left listeners spellbound as we get to know these men and women we become immersed in the vivid culture of the islanders their hard lives of fishing and farming matched by their love of singing dancing and talk yet sadly we watch them leave the island the village becoming uninhabited by 1953 the story of the great blasket is one of struggle between the call of modernity and the tug of ireland s ancient ways between the promise of emigration and the peculiar warmth of island life amid its physical isolation but ultimately it is a tribute to the strength and beauty of a people who tucked away from the rest of civilization kept alive a nation s past and to the newcomers and islanders alike who brought the island s remarkable story to the larger world

conveys the essence of life on a remote irish island where the author lived for five years

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