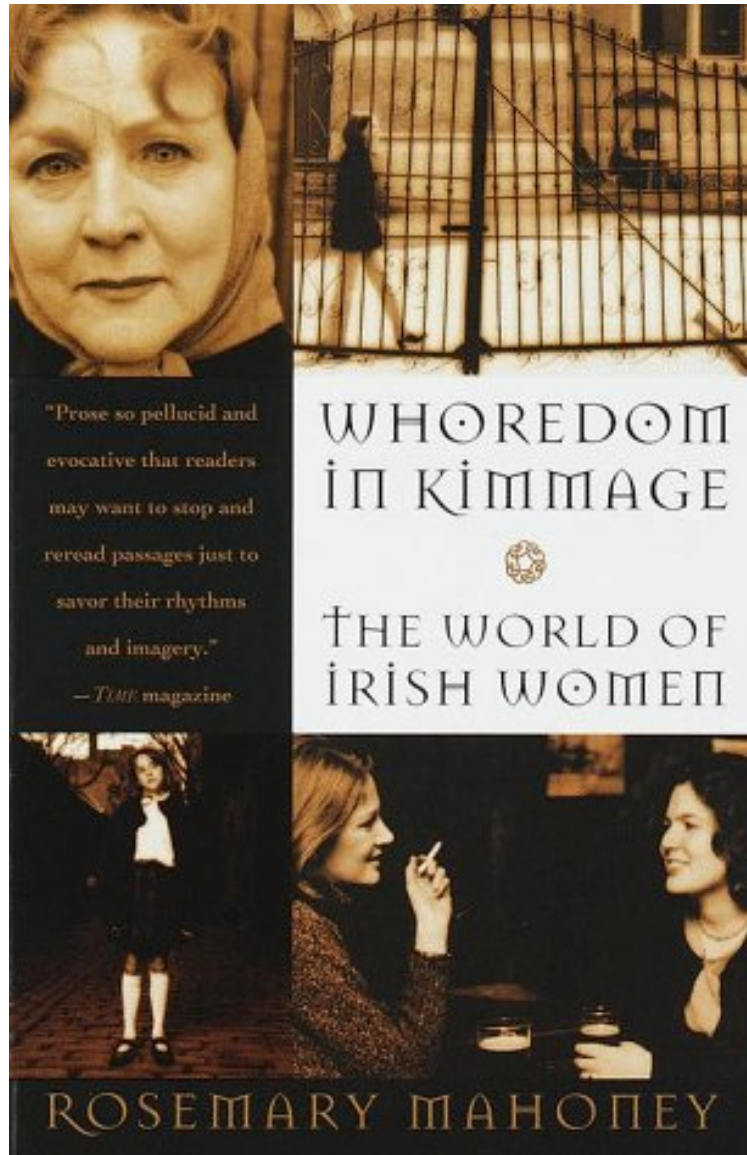


[Free read ebook] Whoredom In Kimmage: The Private Lives of Irish Women

## Whoredom In Kimmage: The Private Lives of Irish Women

Rosemary Mahoney

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**Rosemary Mahoney : Whoredom In Kimmage: The Private Lives of Irish Women** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Whoredom In Kimmage: The Private Lives of Irish Women:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. LOVED this book!!By C. M. MonaghanI discovered Rosemary Mahoney a year ago when I read Down the Nile and have been reading all her books since. She is now my favorite

Travel Memoir writer! Mahoney has a way with words! She can describe a scene or a situation so well you feel you are there. If you love to travel, meet new people, experience other cultures, I highly recommend Rosemary's books. I very much enjoyed reading this book about small village life in Ireland. I've never been to Ireland, but hope to go there sometime soon. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Lee Another fantastic book by Rosemary Mahoney I have read all her books. I love and enjoy all her books! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Tamara Wonderful book with a great ear for dialog.

Written with the art of a skilled fiction writer whose ear for Irish bluster is pitch-perfect, *Whoredom in Kimmage* tells the tale of contemporary Irish women through a series of brilliantly animated scenes that take the reader from Dillon's tiny pub in rural Corofin to the heart of Dublin. This beguiling account of Irish life transcends that nation's small shores through the power of Mahoney's great storytelling gifts. Before the phenomena of Frank McCourt's *Angela's Ashes*, and Thomas Cahill's *How the Irish Saved Civilization*, Rosemary Mahoney traveled to Ireland in response to the growing feeling that changes were taking place, and that those changes directly involved women. Her ideas are animated in brilliantly crafted scenes, taking the reader from Dillon's tiny pub in Corofin to a lesbian pub in Dublin, from a Legion of Mary meeting to a classroom full of boisterous schoolgirls determined to drive their teacher, S'ta Keatin', over the edge. Here, too, are scenes with Ireland's first woman president, Mary Robinson, and the country's preeminent woman poet, Eavan Boland. But most memorable, and perhaps most prescient of the recent enchantment with literature about the Emerald Isle, are Mahoney's pitch-perfect ear for Irish bluster and warmth, her eye for detail, and people so real and unforgettable you'd think they were having a cup of tea with you.

From Publishers Weekly "There's only one sin in Ireland. Sex." So says Jean O'Brien, one of the progressive Irish women portrayed in this marvelously insightful, funny, disturbing, yet ultimately hopeful book. Mahoney (*The Early Arrival of Dreams*) looks at Irish women and their efforts to bring Ireland--in terms of personal choice and freedom--into the late 20th century. The author, who is an American of Irish descent, dissects the Irish--men and women alike--through their words and actions. Unremarkably, most of the book's focus is spent in pubs in Dublin and Corofin, County Clare. We listen to Francis, the wise publican at Dillon's pub: ". . . if the Dutch were in Ireland, they'd own half of Europe, and if the Irish were in Holland, they'd drown," and we encounter the extraordinary women of J. J. Smythe's lesbian bar in Dublin on their Saturday night adventures. Outside the pub, we meet with a diverse group of characters: Ruth Riddick, the activist most responsible for bringing information about birth control to Ireland; the conservative and saturnine members of the Legion of Mary; Eavan Boland, who tells us about the problems of being an Irish woman poet; and Mary Robinson, who with her election as president, has turned what in essence used to be a patronage job for aged political hacks into an office of respect, prestige and voice. The author portrays the sexual tension (much of it fueled by alcohol) that permeates the society. We also see the fruits of that sexual tension--a notably high illegitimacy rate and its social and political fallout. Mahoney, who has a wonderful ear for the expletive-filled Irish use of English, has the ability to chill the bones and make one feel loneliness as a theme of Irish life. Ultimately, this struggle for Irish sexual freedom may yet be fought in the streets of Dublin, like the political revolution of 1916. For as President Robinson says, "In a society where the rights and potential of women are constrained, no man can be truly free. He may have power, but he will not have freedom." First serial to Mirabella; BOMC alternate and QPB selection; author tour. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal In 1991, Mahoney (*The Early Arrival of Dreams*, Fawcett, 1992) returned to Ireland to observe what she believed to be a change in the way Irish women functioned in their society, evinced in part by Mary Robinson's election as president and the challenges being mounted against the country's rigid divorce and abortion laws. Alternating between stories of her time spent in Dublin and in the tiny West Clare town of Corofin, Mahoney contrasts her encounters with urban women, who protest, teach, counsel, and strain to enact change, with the near-suffocation of rural women, trapped within traditional mores, the Church, and their own insecurity. Library collections both in women's studies and contemporary Ireland will benefit from Mahoney's insight and skillful writing. She is instructive and entertaining, with a wonderful ear for the language. The book might be better titled, but Mahoney's observations capture the tensions and complexity of Ireland today. - Susan Clifford, Hughes Aircraft Co. Lib., Los Angeles Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus s From Irish-American writer Mahoney (*The Early Arrival of Dreams*, 1990): a remarkably perceptive and engaging account of contemporary Irish women. Mahoney--who, with strong family ties to Ireland, spent a year in high school there--returned in 1991 to investigate what she believed to be the changing role of women in a country where divorce and abortion are illegal and women are defined strictly in relation to men. As a woman who runs a pregnancy counseling service in Dublin reminded her, "The Irish Constitution refers to women only three times and in a restrictive and paternalistic fashion." But with a woman recently elected as the country's president--an election one Irish analyst described as "psychically comparable to the collapse of the Berlin Wall"--and with the growing challenge to harsh antiabortion laws, as well as with Ireland's membership in the EEC (whose high court guarantees equal rights to all), Mahoney felt that change was at last coming. She alternated her investigation between Dublin and the village of Corofin, where she lived in a splendid but

isolated old castle. In the village, she spent time in the pub run and owned by the MacNamara family--a family that reflected the old realities as well as the new: Francis, like many older men the author met, was a lonely bachelor; nephew Willi had an ex-wife in England, plus two illegitimate children in the village; and heavy-drinking, 30-ish Annie had been forced by her parents and the Church to give up her child, born out of wedlock. Back in Dublin, Mahoney met with lesbians; attended meetings of the Legion of Mary; talked to a feminist poet; and interviewed Irish President Mary Robinson, who noted that the old Irish mind-set of "worrying uncertainty and self-deprecation" is being replaced by "a more positive sense of Irishness." A memorable portrait, by a natural storyteller and scholar, of a wonderfully eloquent and expressive people on the cusp of change. -- Copyright 1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.