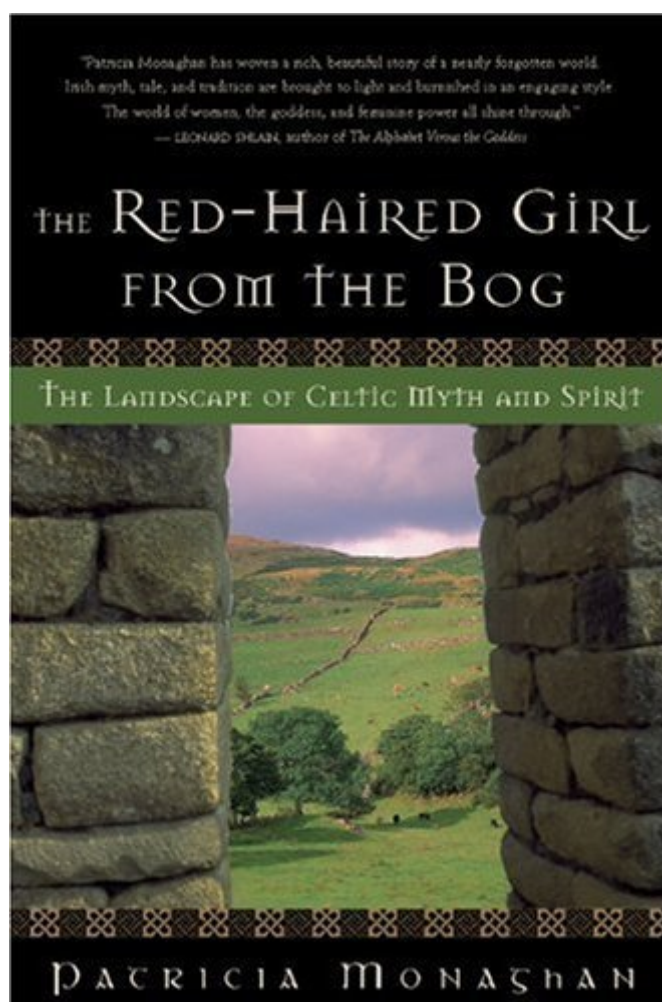


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The Red-Haired Girl From The Bog



Synopsis

When Patricia Monaghan traveled to Ireland seeking her roots, what she found was much more than her physical ancestors. This is the story of her journey and the legends, landmarks, and mystical lore she encountered. Her poetic stories elucidate the ways that myth reveals the truth of human experience as well as the contradictions that are embodied in women's lives. From the author of *The Book of Goddesses and Heroines*. An extensive exploration of goddess mythology in Ireland, from Brigit, the Celtic goddess of water, fire, and transformation, to the historical figure of Granuaile, a pirate queen.

Book Information

File Size: 1121 KB

Print Length: 306 pages

Publisher: New World Library; First Trade Paper Edition edition (November 18, 2010)

Publication Date: November 18, 2010

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B004CYF91K

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #298,361 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #34

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Earth-Based Religions > Celtic #117

in Books > Religion & Spirituality > New Age & Spirituality > Celtic #247 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > New Age > Mysticism

Customer Reviews

I approached this book with misgivings, given the title and the promotional hints. I do not know how much is savvy marketing--the more academic side of Monaghan's here put forth, as opposed to her being the author of *"Wild Women,"* or the one subtitled *"myth, marigolds, and mulches"*. Her eponymous web domain seems to have faded (when I wrote this in 2005, but now it's back) but looking for information about her as I was reading this, she is noted as a leading popularizer of the Goddess and the reconstructed rituals that rejoin (as in the root of "re-ligion") people to nature. This

insistence likewise permeates this book. It's carefully written. I usually "heard" her voice on the page, and as she notes in an aside, I assume that much of what she shares was freshly conveyed in a daily notebook on her travels and through her studies, and then expanded and mulled over much further before coming to print here. I admire Monaghan's determination to excavate using etymology. With a solid grounding in Irish as well as a rare combination of scientific training, her ecologically aware, if persistently soft-focused, depictions of the intermingling of the spiritual, the ecclesiastical, the historical, and the anecdotal make for quite an ambitious product belying the quick title-and-cover glance that casual prospects might give to this if in a New Age bookstore's "Celtic & Druidry" section. More power to her and her readers--they'll pick up more learning and not only lore than they may have bargained for. But you have to put up with, or become enchanted by, visions of she and her pals declaiming Yeats to the wind. She eschews footnotes but acknowledges any idea or source not her own, and an annotated booklist and source locator appends the book.

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