The Playboy of the Western World and Other Plays

By J. M. Synge

Digireads.com. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 130 pages. Dimensions: 8.8in. x 5.9in. x 0.5in.Edmund John Millington Synge (1871-1909), an Irish poet, playwright and prose writer, was also one of the cofounders of the storied Abbey Theatre. Synge was known as a strange and enigmatic man, quiet and reserved, not even understood by his own family members. After graduating from school, Synge decided to pursue music, but his shy nature prevented him from performing, causing him to turn to literature as a creative outlet. When it opened at the Abbey Theatre in 1907, his most acclaimed play, The Playboy of the Western World, met rioting and chaos, as it garnered a very hostile reaction from the Irish public. Arthur Griffith, an Irish nationalist, described the play as a vile and inhuman story told in the foulest language we have ever listened to from a public platform. Synge suffered from Hodgkins disease, and died shortly before his 38th birthday. This collection includes: The Playboy of the Western World, Riders To The Sea, In The Shadow Of The Glen, The Tinkers Wedding, Deirdre Of The Sorrows, and The Well of the Saints. This item ships from multiple locations. Your book may arrive from...

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The Playboy of the Western World is a three-act play written by Irish playwright John Millington Synge and first performed at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on 26 January 1907. It is set in Michael James Flaherty’s public house in County Mayo (on the west coast of Ireland) during the early 1900s. It tells the story of Christy Mahon, a young man running away from his farm, claiming he killed his father. In a good play every speech should be as fully flavoured as a nut or apple, and such speeches cannot be written by anyone who works among people who have shut their lips on poetry. In Ireland, for a few years more, we have a popular imagination that is fiery and magnificent, and tender; so that those of us who wish to write start with a chance that is not given to writers in places where the springtime of the local life has been forgotten, and the harvest is a memory only, and the straw has been turned. PEGEEN. impatiently. He is surely, and leaving me lonesome on the scruff of the hill. (She gets up and puts envelope on dresser, then winds the clock.) Isn’t it long the nights are now, Shawn Keogh, to be leaving a poor girl with her own self counting the hours to the dawn of day? The climax of The Playboy of the Western World occurs when the local residents discover that Christy’s father is still alive. According to the second definition, the climax occurs when Christy “kills” his father a second time but reconciles with him after the old man recovers. Synge’s Style. Synge was a master at writing lively dialogue laced with exaggeration and colorful imagery. In writing The Playboy of the Western World, as in my other plays, I have used one or two words only that I have not heard among the country people of Ireland, or spoken in my own nursery before I could read the newspapers. Another of his earlier plays, The Tinker’s Wedding, had been regarded both by Synge and Yeats as too dangerous to put on in Dublin, and it was not seen there until 1971. Edna O’Brien is the internationally-acclaimed author of 18 books including Down by the River, The House of Splendid Isolation, Mother Ireland, The Country Girls Trilogy, and A Fanatic Heart (all available from Plume). Born and raised in Ireland, she lives in London. --This text refers to an alternate kindle_edition edition. Hypnotically beautiful language, in the lesser known works as well as in Playboy Of the Western World. So much so that you can find yourself mimicking, at least in your mind, the lyrical voices of these characters. Read more.