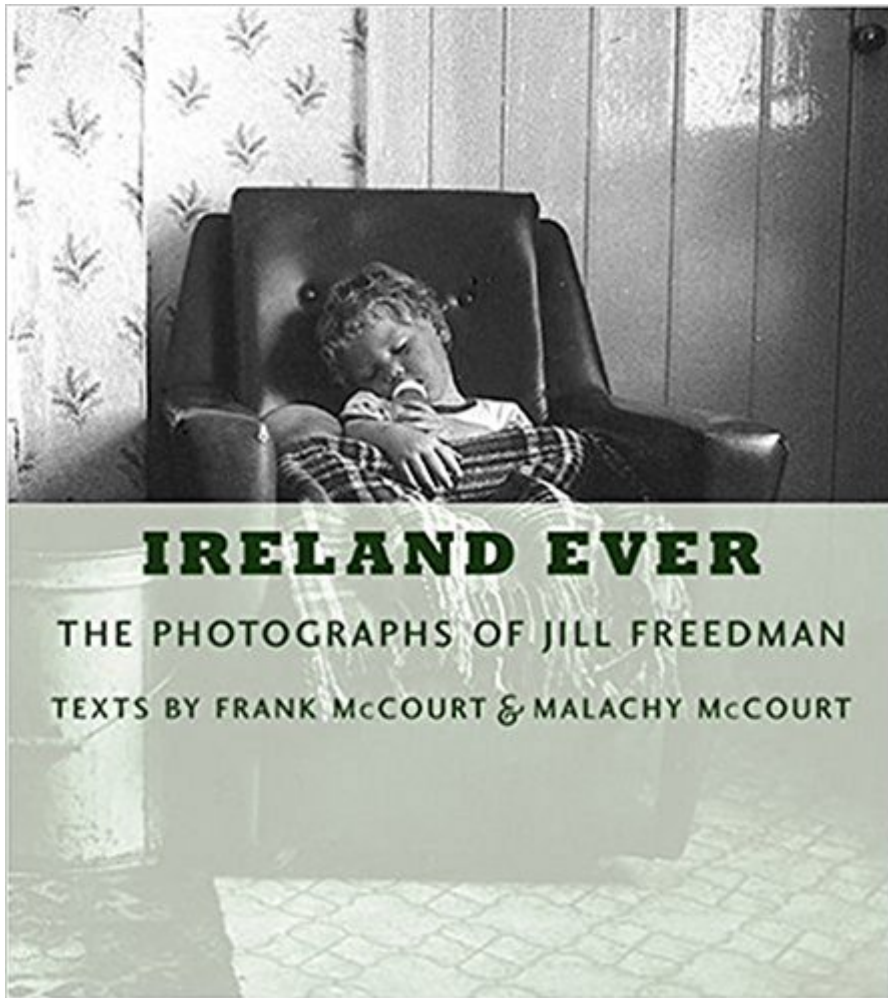




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Ireland Ever: The Photographs Of Jill Freedman



Synopsis

A photographic portrait of the Irish landscape and its people commemorates traditional regional life with a range of duotone photographs, complemented with texts by best-selling Irish-American authors including Angela's Ashes's Frank McCourt and Singing My Him Song's, Malachy McCourt. 35,000 first p

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For a country so identified with the color green, it seems odd to photograph Ireland in black and white. Freedman's approach, however, brings out the spirit of the Irish people and landscape in less familiar ways. The stone cliffs and walls of The Burren in County Clare spread solidly over two pages, and a robust man sets off rowing under a darkened sky in Dingle. In her prefatory note, Freedman says she tries to get away from "the ugly, noisy modern world" when she visits Ireland, and instead seeks out people living as they have for ages. To this end, she photographs scenes such as an elderly man journeying with his mule and dogs in County Leitrim, a man giving his pony a sip of Guinness and a small boy leading cows up a road in County Kerry. Earlier in her life Freedman was a musician, and she clearly still loves music makers: the book includes several striking pictures of old men playing their pipes in solitude and many more of fiddlers and accordionists. Other standbys of Irish life—pubs, the Catholic Church, hunting—are present, but in an unobtrusive, unconventional way. A few photos (a trio of mud wrestlers; a group of college lads with their pants around their ankles) briefly take the book away from

Freedman's romantic rural vision, but for the most part, she succeeds in presenting a photo-journal that lovingly captures the enduring aspects of Irish tradition. 90 duotone photos. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Jill Freedman is a highly respected documentary photographer whose award-winning work is included in the permanent collections of The Museum of Modern Art, the International Center of Photography, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Bibliothèque Nationale. She lives in East Hampton, New York.

The photography is warm, human, and profound. I sent one to my daughter thinking she would know who it was from. Her husband thought it was from a former Irish boyfriend. Her comment was that she thought I would enjoy the book! We both enjoyed it.

Exceptionally good price for this hardback which arrived in perfect condition. Jill has captured some truly wonderful images from throughout Ireland.

I had never heard of Jill Freedman before I bought this book, but I'm glad I did. She captures a world that is part fun, part sad, and all authentic. From scenes of children to musicians to pint drinkers, the black and white photography is key to viewing a world that is endearing to so many.

In this brilliant book of 135 B & W photographs, Jill Feeman has created an interesting, thoughtful and deeply moving look at the old ways of Ireland. Not the fancy, colored pictures of castles, landscapes, tourist attractions, etc., that are commonly found in the plethora of picture or coffee table books that are so common. It takes a photographer, that has a feel for the life and soul of the simple people, who are going about their lives, to produce a book like this. A reality of life. The full gambit from infants, children, seniors, musicians, workers, mourners, animals, clergy and altar boys, dancers, lovers of all ages, hunters, tinkers, sailors, landscapes, and most of all, friends of all types simply enjoying each other's company. It is hard to go through this collection without picking a favorite or two or three. Personally, one of my favorites is that dear soul who appears four times on pages 46, 47, 48 and once again on page 87, just in case you missed all those years of living that are wrapped up in her smile and wrinkles on her face. And how about those two old friends, who in a busy world where everyone is rushing and worrying, get no satisfaction greater than their company. Whether it is sitting and playing a penny whistle for yourself on a wall at the Cliffs of Moher

or resting against a hatstack with his faithful dog nearby, on pages 28 and 29 or the complete satisfaction with life conveyed by the Irish smiles of the fellows on pages 34 and 37; Jill Freeman shows us that the things that are really important, are all around us but only seen when we are tuned in. Although there is only a wee bit of text; Jill sums it up with these words; "Show me where you point your camera, and I'll tell you what you are. These photographs are about the rural Irish at work and play, and sometimes doing nothing.

This book has many wonderful photographs taken over a long time, although there are no dates (why?) Especially the animal photographs rise often to be very memorable indeed. Pictures of musicians are a delight. There also a few clunkers the editor should have advised against including here. It seems that the whole approach to designing book was more as a travel book that evokes the atmosphere of the emerald isle, which it does very much so, but as a book of work by an artist it hasn't been served well by designers. The reproductions are washed out making it seem like a book from the fifties, the layout is really a hodge-podge. The worst offense is printing the strongest pictures across the gutter making them automatically weaker and annoying to look at in their entirety. The book is square and most of the photos are in the long format, weird! Much money was surely spent on the cover but the green band with title is unreadable as is the picture behind it. Still many photos survive this ill treatment and deserve to be seen and enjoyed. I wish that some other time this fine photographer will get a better representation of her work.

I am a great fan of Frank McCourt, he has lit the fire in me to read again. Although his contribution to this book is little more than a foreword, it is Ireland through his eyes, and through the eyes of the people who adore it. The images are amazing, from the quiet fields to the pubs, it shows Ireland in all its lush culture. It is a book that photographers can admire, and people of Irish descent can hold close to their hearts. Although it is expensive (its only downfall), it is more than worth buying, to sit on a coffee table. Where it will never gather dust, because you will always crack it open to see a favorite picture.

I first saw this book at my daughter's house. She lived in Ireland for years and I traveled there to visit. This book is unique in that it captures unstaged views of Irish life. The photos present activities I have observed but not recorded. The photos set forth unguarded moments in many different aspects of the society. The photos present the interactions and actions of people that portrays the lives they live in the countryside and the cities. It is a most unguarded and sensitive portrayal of a

unique society.

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