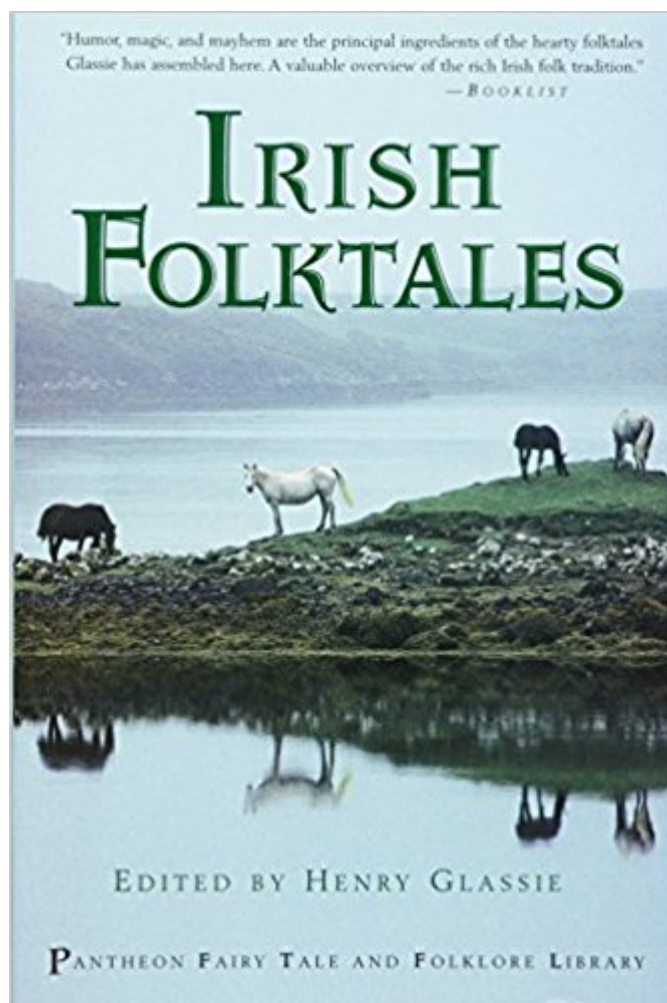


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# Irish Folktales (Pantheon Fairy Tale And Folklore Library)



## Synopsis

Robust and funny, sorrowful and heroic, this collection of 125 lively tales tells the story of Ireland. Spanning the centuries from the first wars of the ancient Irish kings through the Celtic Renaissance of Yeats to our own time, they are set in cities, villages, fields and forests from the wild Gaelic western coast to the modern streets of Dublin and Belfast. Part of the Pantheon Fairy Tale and Folklore Library

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This latest volume of an already distinguished series maintains and even exceeds the high standards of the previous ones. The texts are taken from published and unpublished sources of the past 200 years and include those Glassie collected himself. They reveal the deep humanity of the Irish people; the commentary and notes reveal the humanity of Glassie. While many folktale collections aimed at a general audience are not useful to folklorists because they lack accuracy, this one will be welcomed. General readers will undoubtedly appreciate Glassie's ability to illuminate subtly the "storyteller's art." Very highly recommended. David S. Azzolina, Johns Hopkins Univ. Lib., Baltimore Copyright 1985 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Delightful and informative, comfortable and full of wit and fancy. It reminds us why the Irish have been known as great storytellers for a millennium." — Roger D. Abrahams, editor of African

Folktales" This latest volume of an already distinguished series maintains and even exceeds the high standards of the previous ones. The tales reveal the deep humanity of the Irish people; the commentary and notes reveal the humanity of Glassie. Very highly recommended." *Library Journal* "A marvelous assortment selected from published (but often out-of-print) collections by the likes of pioneer collectors Lady Wilde, Robin Flower, and Jeremiah Curtin, and from unpublished manuscripts in private and state-owned archives." *Los Angeles Times Book Review* "Vivid and surprising . . . The Irish gift for prolixity and verbal magic glistens throughout Glassie's collection." *Chicago Magazine*

I cannot understand why folks would unfairly criticize this volume. Having delved deeply into the likes of Yeats and Graves, I can attest that the sampling of tales and legends in Glassie is precisely representative of the Irish folk literature. If a reader finds the preponderance of "bar tales" (funny, I couldn't find many, but I don't frequent bars) offensive, perhaps he should choose a less alcohol-infatuated culture than the Irish: I doubt the merest mention of alcohol would grace Inea Bushnaq's collection of Arabic folktales, which is also published by Pantheon. If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen! Meanwhile, if you truly want to be bored and offended, try reading Rolleston's archaic rendering of the myths of the Tuatha de Danann: I can't remember how many times I fell asleep despite being quite the devotee of the mythologies of world's cultures.

This is a fascinating collection of folk tales told by a variety of Irish people from the late 19th to mid 20th centuries. The stories are recorded in the individuals' own words, providing insight into Irish history as far back as the early Irish kings, culture, folklore, superstitions, and even speech patterns. Some of the stories are very amusing, as well.

Love to read about my homeland.

A wonderful collection of fairy tales from Ireland. Some are short. Some are very long and some are hard to understand while others are super simple.

A collection of Irish folktales, written long ago. Learned a lot about banshees, little people, etc.

I have yet to encounter one of the Pantheon folklore series that was not a good read. This is no exception. My regret is that they have not published more and that some of their folklore books

seem out of print. I enjoyed this book and I am happy to recommend it. Since my major interest is Celtic folklore, this volume was both welcome and entertaining.

Interesting. For school

My son and I got this book thinking it would cover Irish folklore. A better name would be Irish bar tales... Considering the richness of the Irish storytelling and folklore traditions, this was painful. Most tales were disjointed and not very entertaining. If this is the current oral tradition, then it's already pretty dead. Overall we were not impressed and wish we had returned it. We kept hoping it'd get better. It didn't. Maybe it's of interest to a scholar, but it's not to read for entertainment.

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