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Iris Murdoch: A Life: The Authorized Biography: A Life - The Authorized Biography

Von Peter J. Conradi

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before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Iris Murdoch: A Life:

The Authorized Biography: A Life - The Authorized Biography:

Kurzbeschreibung A full and revealing biography of one of the century's greatest English writers and an icon to a generation. Dame Iris Murdoch has played a major role in English life and letter for nearly half a century. As A.S. Byatt notes, she is absolutely central to our culture. As a novelist, as a thinker, and as a private individual, her life has significance for our age. There is a recognisable Murdoch world, and the adjective Murdochian has entered the language to describe situations where a small group of people interact intricately and strangely. Her story is as emotionally fascinating as that of Virginia Woolf, but far less well known; hers has been an adventurous, highly eventful life, a life of phenomenal emotional and intellectual pressures, and her books portray a real world which is if anything toned down as well as mythicised. For Iris's formative years, astonishingly, movingly and intimately documented by Conrad's meticulous research, were spent among the leading European and British intellectuals who fought and endured World War II, and her life like her books, was full of the most extraordinary passions and profound relationships with some of the most inspiring and influential thinkers, artists, writers and poets of that turbulent time and after. Peter Conradi was very close to both Iris Murdoch and John Bayley, Iris's husband, whose memoir of their life together has itself been the subject of an enormous amount of attention and acclaim. This will be an extraordinarily full biography, for there are vast resources in diaries and papers and friends' recollections, and while it is a superlative biography it is also a superb history of a generation who have profoundly influenced our world today.

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Synopsis In this revised study of Iris Murdoch's fiction, the author argues that her spirited earlier work gave way to a deeper more comic style in the 1970s and 80s. He regards her novels as being serious entertainment and as important fictions in the Anglo-Russian tradition, not as disguised philosophy. For this second edition, Dr Conradi has added a chapter on her most recent fiction "The Good Apprentice" and "The Book and the Brotherhood" and relates her work to that of Dostoevsky. The author has published articles on John Fowles and Dostoevsky.