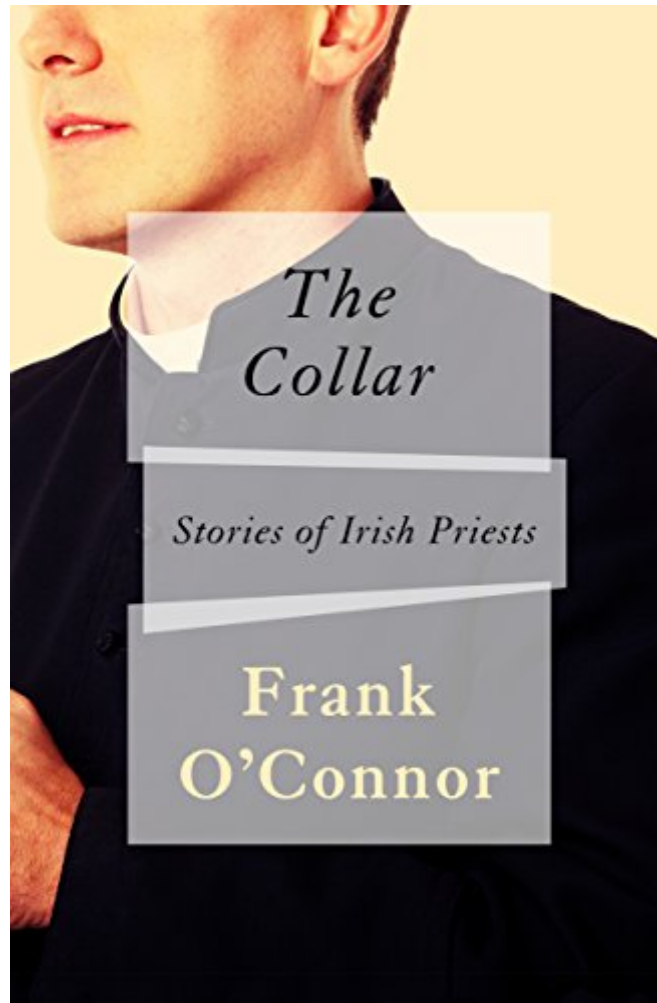




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The Collar: Stories Of Irish Priests



Synopsis

A master storyteller explores a signature themeOver the course of his long and distinguished career, Frank O'Connor wrote many stories about priests. Some of his most iconic characters are men of the cloth, and few writers have portrayed the unique demands of the priesthood with as much empathy, honesty, and wit. This collection, edited and introduced by his widow, Harriet O'Connor Donovan Sheehy, brings together the best of O'Connor's short fiction on the subject. From "An Act of Charity," the ironically titled tale of church efforts to cover up a curate's suicide, to "The Sentry," an exquisite blend of drama and satire sparked by the British army's invasion of a priest's onion patch, these sixteen stories capture the full range of pressures visited on the Irish clergy. "Peasants" is a lesson in what happens when a man of God places law and order above compassion, while "Achilles' Heel" reveals that even a bishop can be rendered powerless by his housekeeper. "The Frying-pan" and "The Wreath" are sad and lovely portraits of priests caught between their vows of celibacy and their natural desire for human connection. In the rituals and contradictions of the priesthood, Frank O'Connor found one of his greatest motifs. The Collar showcases an artist at the peak of his powers and shines a brilliant light on a fascinating world too often hidden in shadow and sentiment.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have read most of Frank O'Connor's works, and have read *The Collar* numerous times. It's my favorite. I'm so happy it has come on as the book is out of print now I understand. I still get great laughs from his character descriptions and situations. I love his humor and local idiom. The *Collar* stories give me the impression that the writer is himself a priest or an insider to all the priestly situations and clerical language. I speak as a priest myself. I lived near his home in Cork, Ireland and used to pass by his home every day going to and coming from school. I know his background as a boy and wonder at how he attained such fame and education. He is a self made man. I just love all his works and have no hesitation in giving him a five-star rating for *The Collar*. I must be prejudiced! Sorry. The local Mayfield Public Library is dedicated to Frank O'Connor, a local boy made good! The reader will enjoy this man's stories and humor.- Jerome O'Mahony

Each story stands on its own yet they are interwoven to form a larger narrative. Brilliantly written with subtle humor and psychological and social insight.

A fine collection of interesting people, told with both compassion and humor by one of Ireland's greatest writers.

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