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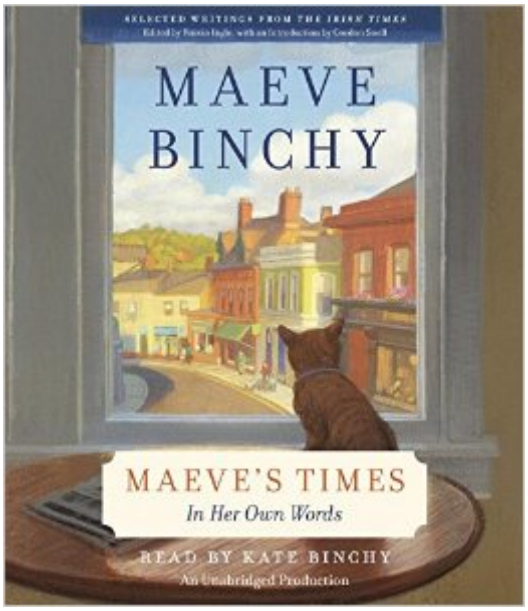
Maeve's Times: In Her Own Words



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Synopsis

Five decades of selected writings from theÂ Irish TimesÂ by the beloved and best-selling author, filled with her hallmark humor, candor, and wisdom-a timeless gift to her legion of fans.Maeve Binchy once confessed: "As someone who fell off a chair not long ago trying to hear what they were saying at the next table in a restaurant, I suppose I am obsessively interested in what some might consider the trivia of other people’s lives." She was an accidental journalist, yet from the beginning, her writings reflected the warmth, wit, and keen human interest that readers would come to love in her fiction. From the royal wedding to boring airplane companions, Samuel Beckett to Margaret Thatcher, "senior moments" to life as a waitress,Â Maeve’s TimesÂ gives us wonderful insight into a changing Ireland as it celebrates the work of one of our best-loved writers in all its diversity-revealing her characteristic directness, laugh-out-loud humor, and unswerving gaze into the true heart of a matter.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Maeve’s Times" are a collection of witty reflections on day to day life - air travel, etiquette dilemmas, school outings, as an example - selected from Maeve’s columns for the Irish Times. I found them enjoyable, because they contain truth, and situations we all recognise, with a wry edge.This is not a biography of Maeve, but illustrates her outlook of realism combined with humour, which flavoured the characters she depicted in the best of her books. I believe that younger readers, in particular, who do not remember when just about every newspaper contained such columns, may find it boring. The entries are similar to what someone today might include in a blog. There is no

special insight or wisdom, but the reflections on the largely banal, in a fashion that highlights the humour of the situation, and is all too true, I did find to be fun.Those of us who well remember the 'regular columns which resemble today's blogs' know that, with the requirement that the author constantly turn out material, finding a topic must have been quite a task. The humour in Maeve's columns came from a sense that 'she has the courage to say what I think,' or 'her experience is similar to my own, but she managed to have a laugh despite the irritation or banality.'The title and 'blurb' can be somewhat misleading, because they give the impression that they comprise a biography. Some of the reflections may seem dated to younger readers - those of us 'of a certain age' should enjoy them with some sense of nostalgia. I've read many of Maeve's books, and found that, at their best, they are warm and have a highly accurate depiction of human nature and relationships - where those I would not place in the 'best' category are trite and 'go nowhere.' This would also be true of the columns in this collection.

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