



The Field, by John B Keane

By John B Keane

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The Field is John B. Keane's fierce and tender study of the love a man can have for land and the ruthless lengths he will go to in order to obtain the object of his desire. It is dominated by Bull McCabe, one of the most famous characters in Irish writing today.

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The Field, by John B Keane By John B Keane Bibliography

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Editorial Review

About the Author

John B. Keane, one of Ireland's most prolific and respected literary figures, died on 30 May 2002 at the age of 73, after a long and difficult battle with cancer. John B. was born in 1928 in Listowel, County Kerry and it was here that he spent his literary career, running a pub which provided him with inspiration for his characters and ideas.

His first play, *Sive*, was presented by the Listowel Drama Group and won the All-Ireland Drama Festival in 1959. It was followed by another success, *Sharon's Grave*, in 1960. *The Field* (1965) and *Big Maggie* (1969), are widely regarded as classics of the modern Irish stage and jewels in a crown which includes such popular hits as *Many Young Men of Twenty*, *The Man from Clare*, *Moll*, *The Chastitute* and *The Year of the Hiker*. His large canon of plays have been seen abroad in cities as far afield as Moscow and Los Angeles. *Big Maggie* ran on Broadway for over two months in 1982 and *The Field* was adapted into an Oscar-winning Hollywood film, starring Brenda Fricker and Richard Harris, in 1991.

But it was not just in his plays that John B. Keane managed to portray all aspects of humanity with both wit and truth. He also wrote many fine novels, including *The Contractors*, *A High Meadow* and *Durango*. *Durango* was adapted for the big screen, starring Brenda Fricker and Patrick Bergin. A writer of essays, short stories and letters, his humorous words live on in *Celebrated Letters of John B. Keane*, *More Celebrated Letters*, *The Best of John B. Keane* and *The Short Stories of John B. Keane*. In 1987 John B. Keane received a special award for his enduring place in Irish life and letters from the Sunday Independent/Irish Life. In that year he also won a Sunday Tribune Arts Award and in 1988 he was chosen as the recipient of the Irish-American Fund Award for Literature. In 1999 he was presented with a Gradam medal, the Abbey Theatre's highest award. He was a member of Aosdana and the recipient of honorary doctorates from Trinity College, Dublin, Limerick University and Marymount College, New York.

John B. Keane remains one of Mercier's best-loved and best-selling authors.

Users Review

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