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Explore Patrick's place in history, the spread of Christianity beyond the Roman Empire, how Patrick first came to Ireland, the influence of the earlier Palladius on Patrick's work, political and social conditions at that time, and the spiritual battles with the Druids. This 21st century edition now includes notes from other biographers, mystics, historians, and storytellers of Ireland. The ideal place to begin any exploration of a much-loved but little-known saint. "Bury proves to be more than a mere dry historian; he turns out to be a fine storyteller as well, and his accounts of Patrick's spiritual duels with Druid priests for the heart and mind of the Irish king are quite gripping." —History Book Club "Editor-writer Sweeney gives Bury's 1905 biography of the legendary St. Patrick a greater contemporary context in this meticulously researched and presented work.... Bury wrote what Sweeney calls the 'ideal modern biography' of Patrick.... Sweeney assembles and rearranges material from Bury's original work and incorporates more of Patrick's own words, from his Confession and Letter against Coroticus. Sweeney's light edits to Bury's text clarify exactly what Patrick did in Ireland, noting that although he did convert some pagan kingdoms, he also was responsible for organizing Christians who were already there and connecting the island with the church of the Roman Empire." The perfect St. Patrick's Day gift, and a book in the best tradition of popular history -- the untold story of Ireland's role in maintaining Western culture while the Dark Ages settled on Europe. Every year millions of Americans celebrate St. Patrick's Day, but they may not be aware of how great an influence St. Patrick was on the subsequent history of civilization. Not only did he bring Christianity to Ireland, he instilled a sense of literacy and learning that would create the conditions that allowed Ireland to become "the isle of saints and scholars" -- and thus preserve Western culture while Europe was being overrun by barbarians. In this entertaining and compelling narrative, Thomas Cahill tells the story of how Europe evolved from the classical age of Rome to the medieval era. Without Ireland, the transition could not have taken place. Not only did Irish monks and scribes maintain the very record of Western civilization -- copying manuscripts of Greek and Latin writers, both pagan and Christian, while libraries and learning on the continent were forever lost -- they brought their uniquely Irish world-view to the task. As Cahill delightfully illustrates, so much of the liveliness we associate with medieval culture has its roots in Ireland. When the seeds of culture were replanted on the European continent, it was from Ireland that they were germinated. In the tradition of Barbara Tuchman's A Distant Mirror, How The Irish Saved Civilization reconstructs an era that few know about but which is central to understanding our past and our cultural heritage. But it conveys its knowledge with a winking wit that aptly captures the sensibility of the unsung Irish who relaunched civilization. BONUS MATERIAL: This ebook edition includes an excerpt from Thomas Cahill's Heretics and Heroes. A fabled Irish figure comes to life in this ebook original short story by Michael Scott, the New York Times bestselling author of the Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel series. Many have spoken of his legendary adventures, but few know the true tale of Saint Patrick... Taken prisoner by pirates, Patrick sails to Ireland as a young boy and must fight to find his way back home, led by faith and the will to survive. Years later, he returns to the land that once held him captive--and this time, he'll build a legacy that will last centuries. This is the extraordinary true story of Patrick, a humble man who made an incredible journey from slave to saint. Captured at the age of sixteen and forced into slavery in Ireland, this courageous and resourceful young boy overcame all hardship to fulfil his calling: to bring the people of Ireland into the light of God's word. George Otto Simms presents the real Patrick, not the Patrick of myth and legend but the Patrick of the Confessions. In his own words he was 'a sinner', but he was a brave individual, a sensitive seer, a persuasive orator, a traveller, a noble spirit and a true holy man. \*Includes pictures \*Includes excerpts of medieval accounts \*Includes a bibliography for further reading "It is a virtue and a prize to listen patiently to and put up with insults for the sake of God." - Saint Brigid of Kildare The drumbeat of horses' hooves and clatter of chariot wheels echo through the rolling green hills of what will be known much later as the Emerald Isle. The driver is a lone woman whose long hair and homespun cloak whip through the wind behind her. Headstrong, confident, and intelligent, she blazes a trail that will change her nation

forevermore, yet not in her own name or for her own sake, but for that of the God who sent her. This is a woman who will love the poor, feed the hungry, house the homeless, teach the ignorant, and defy the odds doing it all. This is Brigid of Kildare. Saint Brigid of Kildare survives as a model of the religious life, a woman who cared for the earth and its people, who strove for justice, equality, and peace. She is also a model of the disciple's life, one who took Christ's Great Commission to heart, traversing her nation to welcome other men and women into the fold and encourage the spread of Christianity wherever she went, through the gospel message of love for one's neighbor and God's saving grace. Because her legends trace back to pre-Christian times, Brigid is one of the most powerful religious figures in all of Irish history, as her story intertwines many layers of separate traditions, both pagan and Christian. That said, even as her story remains mixed with folk tales and pagan customs, along with St. Patrick, Brigid is credited with the evangelization of the entire Irish nation, turning the pagan island into a bastion of Catholic Christianity. She is often seen as a bridge between pagan and Christian Irish traditions, bringing commonality to a world divided by religious beliefs. She also represents a bridge between social classes, as she was the daughter of a king and a leading religious authority, but administered to the poorest of people and the lowliest of creatures. She welcomed kings and paupers, saints and pagans, and men and women into her fold, seeing the light of Christ in all of God's creations. Saint Brigid of Kildare: The Life, Legends, and Legacy of One of Ireland's Patron Saints chronicles Brigid's story, and how she became one of the most famous saints in history. Along with pictures depicting important people, places, and events, you will learn about Brigid of Kildare like never before. John Killen brings together the legends, folklore, traditions and stories that have been associated with St Patrick across the centuries. When a poor Irish peddler follows the instructions given to him by Saint Patrick in a dream, his life is greatly changed. Includes background on Saint Patrick and on the origin of the story. Saint Patrick was a fifth-century Romano-British Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland. Known as the "Apostle of Ireland", he is the primary patron saint of Ireland. He is also venerated in the Anglican Communion, the Old Catholic Church and in the Eastern Orthodox Church as equal-to-the-apostles and Enlightener of Ireland. This volume contains The Confession of St. Patrick, an autobiography written in the fifth century. It provides details of his life and beliefs. This classic continues to fascinate and inspire many. The book also contains St. Patrick's Epistle to Coroticus; a letter written by Patrick after he had lived and worked as a bishop in Ireland for many years. It is a scathing letter St. Patrick wrote to British tyrant Coroticus and the British Christians condemning the kidnap and killing of Christian converts. St. Patrick repeatedly uses scripture to strengthen his argument against Coroticus and to implore his men and followers to change their ways. The volume also contains St. Fiech's Metrical Life of St. Patrick and Tripartite Life of St. Patrick: Parts I, II, and III. Gathering together a number of texts written in Latin in the fourth and fifth centuries A.D., Liam De Paor masterfully illustrates the spread of Christianity through Western Europe to Ireland and sheds light on the organization of the western church at the time. Saint Patrick's World also includes a selection of later writings and extracts, the work of early medieval authors who tried to tell the story on the basis both of documents now lost and of legends and folktales. The ancient writings selected and translated here place at the disposal of the general reader and the interested student the main evidence for one of the most important episodes in Irish history: the peaceful transformation of a pagan tribal society into a Christian kingdom which soon entered its Golden Age. Alice Curtayne has collected stories that reflect not only the holiness but also the gaiety of the saints -- appealing to readers of all ages -- and she tells them with the poetry and feeling that mark the work of every true Irish storyteller. The English royal saint Edmund, king and martyr (d. 869) was venerated in Ireland from at least the twelfth century, and Athassel priory in Co. Tipperary was the centre of a cult focussed on a miraculous statue of the saint. This book argues that the veneration of St Edmund and other English saints in Ireland is essential to understanding the complex identity of the 'English of Ireland', the descendants of the Anglo-Norman invaders. The history of Athassel priory, a nominally 'English' monastery patronized by the Burke dynasty, reflected the changing fortunes of Englishness in late medieval Ireland. Although apparent attempts to make St Edmund an additional patron saint of Ireland in the late Middle Ages proved unsuccessful, the spread of the name Eamon (a gaelicized form of Edmund) in Gaelic Ireland in the fifteenth century has left a lasting legacy of this unusual cult of an English saint in Ireland. Despite being the female patron saint of Ireland and one of the most remarkable women in Irish history, St. Brigid has always been an elusive figure. Some scholars have argued that she never existed as a real person but was merely the Christian personification of the cult of a pagan goddess of the same name. This book reviews all the evidence-history, legend and folklore-and concludes that while she has many of the attributes of the goddess Brigit, she was certainly a real person. The book also reviews her cult and veneration in Ireland and overseas, from her lifetime down to the present day, as attested by place-names, holy wells, and folklore, and also by the large numbers of churches (Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland), schools, and GAA clubs dedicated to her. [Subject: Irish Studies, Irish Saints, Folklore, Myth & Legend, Christianity, History] This beautiful book weaves together faith and wonder, miracles and mystery, to tell the little-known story of Saint Ciaran of Ireland. An easy-to-read biography of Ireland's patron saint. This beautifully illustrated book from the award-winning author of Strega Nona tells the story behind St. Patrick's Day. The story of Patrick's life, from his noble birth in Britain, to his being captured and taken to Ireland by a group of bandits, to the "dreams" that led him to convert the Irish people to the Christian faith. DePaola also retells several well-known legends, including the story of how Patrick got rid of all the snakes in Ireland. Full color. This fixed-layout ebook, which preserves the design and layout of the original print book, features read-along narration by the author. An insane king. His fleeing daughter. Estranged brothers, with a scarred past, risking everything to save her from a fate worse than death. Toss in a holy priest and a lovable wolfhound, and get ready for a wild race across Ireland. Will Dymphna escape her deranged father and his sinful desires? For the first time ever, the story of Saint Dymphna is brought to life in this dramatic novel for adults and older teens. With raw adventure, gripping action, and even humor in the midst of dark mental turmoil, Susan Peek's newest novel will introduce you to a saint you

will love forever! Teenage girls will see that Dymphna was just like them, a real girl, while young men will thrill at the heart-stopping danger and meet heroes they can easily relate to. If ever a Heavenly friend was needed in these times of widespread depression and emotional instability, this forgotten Irish saint is it! St Patrick, Apostle of Ireland, is one of the best known saints of the Western World. Legends claim he converted the country of Ireland to Christianity and drove all the snakes into the sea. Most of what we know about Patrick comes from his own writings. Patrick wrote about his thoughts, dreams and visions. He wrote about his life as part of his teachings. He wrote how much he prayed and what he prayed for. He wrote about his sins and how his lack of education hindered his work. But he didn't write about his personal life, or the miracles he is said to have performed. Find out more about this man who started out a slave and became the beloved saint of Ireland, and of Irish people everywhere. Ages 8 and up. LearningIsland.com believes in the value of children practicing reading for 15 minutes every day. Our 15-Minute Books give children lots of fun, exciting choices to read, from classic stories, to mysteries, to books of knowledge. Many books are appropriate for hi-lo readers. Open the world of reading to a child by having them read for 15 minutes a day. St Patrick is perhaps the most venerated saint of the modern age, whose feast day is marked each year by massive celebrations across the world, from Dublin to New York and Sydney to Rio de Janeiro. Yet, in spite of his popularity, very little is known of his life, which is clouded by myth and uncertainty. The facts that are known - that he was born in the late fourth century in Roman Britain, was captured by Irish raiders at the age of 16 and sold into slavery, escaped six years later to Britain where he became a priest and later a bishop before returning to Ireland to proselytise - give only a vague sense of the man behind the legends. J.B. Bury's classic biography, which remains the definitive work on the saint, dispels many of the myths and paints a vivid and exacting portrait of the world around St Patrick, revealing the influences and inspirations that transformed him from a minor fifth century missionary into the patron saint of Ireland and a source of living inspiration for countless people - the Irish above all - some 1,500 years after his death. Relates the adventures of three little pigs who leave home to seek their fortunes and how they deal with the big bad wolf. This beautifully crafted picture story book describes the life of Ireland's patron saint, Patrick. The book draws on both legend and his own writings to tell the thrilling story of how the boy-slave returned to the land of his captivity to preach the Christian message of faith. The luminous illustrations evoke the Celtic land of St. Patrick and the light he shone into a dark world of cruelty and superstition. Seminar paper from the year 2015 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Culture and Applied Geography, grade: 1.0, University of Tubingen (Department of English), language: English, abstract: When hearing the name 'Saint Patrick', people nowadays think of a bearded, often staffbearing, Irishman who was the first to introduce Christianity to the Emerald Isle, who chased the serpents out of Ireland, and who made use of a shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity. This is the conventional representation of Ireland's National Apostle, and this is what a very high percentage of Saint Patrick's Day visitors would give as an answer if you asked them who Saint Patrick has been. However, this depiction of Ireland 's patron saint is as different from the 'real Patrick' who lived most likely between the end of the fourth and the middle of the fifth century A.D. as is the modern, secular way of celebrating March 17, 'Saint Patrick's Day', with parades, rugby matches, and green beer from its traditional, religious origins, the feast of St. Patrick's 'falling asleep', which had been celebrated as early as the ninth century. Neither was he Irish, nor was he the first to introduce Christianity on the island, nor did he chase any of the poisonous snakes out of Ireland as there simply were none in the country after the most recent Ice Age. So, in fact, the prevailing popular image of Saint Patrick is – at least historically speaking – distorted and inaccurate. What may be the reason for such a misrepresentation of the 'real Patrick'? Allannah Hopkin gets to the core of the problem by stating that “[m]any people still confuse the Saint Patrick of legend with the very different historical figure.” In her work *The Living Legend of Saint Patrick*, she points out the different developmental stages of the representations of Patrick over the centuries. According to her, even Patrick's earliest biographers elevated Patrick 's life to that of a secular hero. In the following lines, a brief overview of the sources on the 'historical Patrick' will be provided. Then, a chronological reconstruction of Patrick's life and mission will be attempted on the basis of the saint's Confession. It is also an aim of this paper to find out what kind of man Patrick was and what role he played in the conversion of Ireland to Christianity. Are you a thinker, a doer, or a lover? In *Three Irish Saints: A Guide to Finding Your Spiritual Style*, Dr. Kevin Vost mines ancient and modern sources to reveal what Saints Kevin of Glendalough, Patrick of Ireland, and Brigid of Kildare can teach us about the joys of contemplation, evangelization, and charitable living. Thinking, doing, and loving! Included is a simple self-test to find out which spiritual master you are most like. Would you rather: plop down in your easy chair and enjoy a good book? Celebrate life and the company of others? Engage in long conversations with your close friends? Vost examines the lives of these three great saints, unearthing the gifts and virtues that made one a thinker, one a doer, and one a lover. So which one are you? Read the book. Take the test. And find out. *Saint Patrick Retold* draws on recent research to offer a fresh assessment of Patrick's travails and achievements. This is the first biography in nearly fifty years to explore Patrick's career against the background of historical events in late antique Britain and Ireland. The trials and successes of the twelve Irish saints including Ireland's Patron Saint Patrick, Saint Brigid, who founded Ireland's first community of sisters, and many others who were either canonized or saintly laypersons. A classic volume providing insight into the facts and legends of these remarkable people. An authoritative modern portrait of Ireland's patron saint and the letters that revealed intimate information about his belief system and life in Ireland. From his noble birth in Britain to his being captured and taken to Ireland by a group of bandits to the "dreams" that led him to convert the Irish people to the Christian faith, the story of Patrick is told. Full color. This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work is in the public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important

enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. To ensure a quality reading experience, this work has been proofread and republished using a format that seamlessly blends the original graphical elements with text in an easy-to-read typeface. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant. The legend of Saint Patrick is irresistibly captivating—he drove the snakes out of Ireland, battled the druids, and used the three-leaf Shamrock to convert the pagan Irish to belief in the Christian Trinity. Yet, as so often happens, these stories are mere myths that fold under closer scrutiny. Snakes never plagued the Irish countryside, and the Emerald Isle's most beloved saint wasn't even Irish but a Briton of the Roman nobility. Fortunately, the truth is even more fascinating. In *The World of Saint Patrick*, classical scholar Philip Freeman offers the definitive account of Saint Patrick's life through new and vibrant translations of the greatest works of early Christian Ireland. This story of great violence, brutality, and even greater faith begins with two letters Patrick wrote describing his kidnapping by pirates at age sixteen and subsequent slavery. Although his grandfather was a priest and his father a deacon, at the time of his kidnapping Patrick had rejected his childhood faith in favor of atheism. Yet in this deeply moving narrative, Patrick recounts how he regained his faith during his captivity, and how the voice of God guided him both in his escape from bondage and in his eventual return to Ireland as a missionary to the very people who had enslaved him. *The World of Saint Patrick* delves into colorful tales of Patrick's struggles with pagan kings, soaring hymns of praise, and a prayer of protection against forces of evil such as "the magic of women, blacksmiths, and druids." Freeman also examines the life of Saint Brigid, Ireland's first female saint, and the legendary voyage of Saint Brendan and his monks across the western ocean. Both general readers with an interest in Ireland's saints and scholars studying religion or medieval history will be unable to put down this captivating tale of Ireland's greatest saint and the remarkable times in which he lived.

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