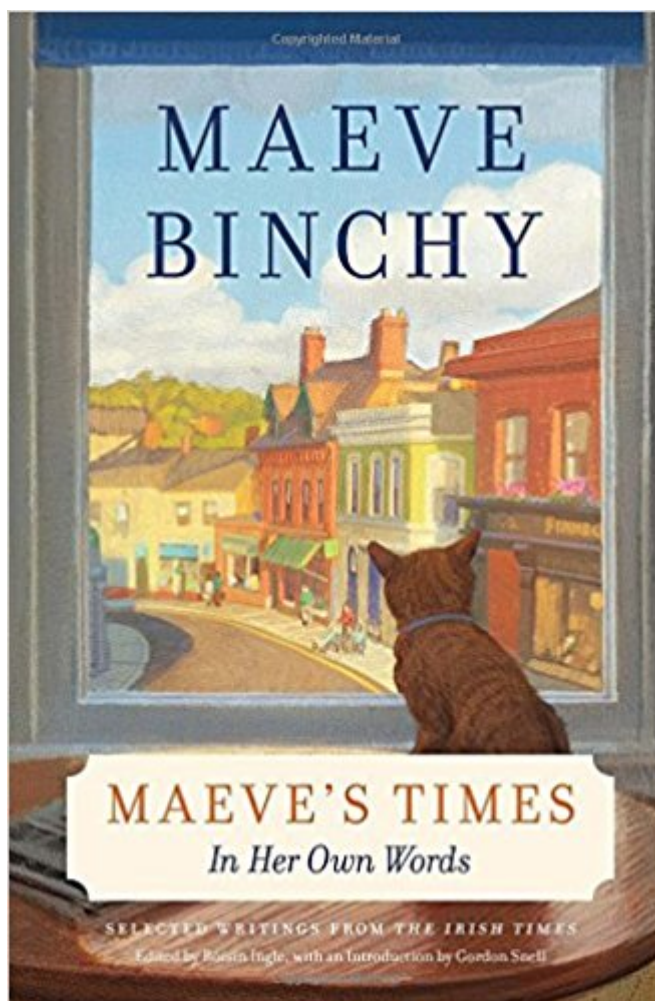


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# Maeve's Times: In Her Own Words



## Synopsis

Five decades of selected writings from the *Irish Times* 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, *Maeve's Times* 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

"A brilliant anthology [and] a real godsend to those of us inspired by good reporting and increasingly frustrated by the rarity of it these days. . . . Whether she was writing descriptively, critically, forensically, amiably, sadly, optimistically, cynically (or in any other state of mind), Maeve Binchy the journalist always had something meaningful to say, just as much so in 1964 as in 2011. . . . If you're among the few people on this planet who have never read a Maeve Binchy book, start with *Maeve's Times*. Then you'll truly understand how the outstanding

reporter formed the iconic novelist. **Pauline Finch, Bookreporter.com**

“Maeve’s fresh voice and spirit are captured in these pieces [with] wonderfully clear, caring and humorous prose. **Michael D. Langan, Buffalo News**

“Binchy’s trademark warmth, humor, and humanity characterize this volume. . . Wit, sarcasm, and big-heartedness emerge as hallmarks of [her] direct and uncluttered style. . . . While the collection makes an enjoyable read on the merit of humor alone, editor Ingle’s selections capture Binchy’s journalistic apprenticeship, record an intelligent woman’s perspective on a changing world, and offer entertaining glimpses of a biography that Binchy fans will adore. **Publishers Weekly**

“Spanning five decades, this collection of Binchy’s trademark columns celebrates her unabashed delight in the human condition, yes; but it also uncovers a much sharper wit and a more trenchant observer with a more cynical attitude than she ever divulged in her fiction. For the legions of fans who mourned her passing, this revelatory collection of essays brings a little of their cherished Maeve back, and then some. **Carol Haggas, Booklist**

“Delightful. . . This warm, down-to-earth collection works wonderfully. Fans of the author’s novels will enjoy learning more about her early life and about an earlier Ireland. **Henrietta Verma, Library Journal**

“This selection of her work represents Binchy’s eclectic interests, infectious sense of humor and wry take on social change. . . . A blithe, entertaining collection that will surely delight [her] many fans. **Kirkus Reviews**

“Maeve’s Times is funny and clever and kind, which are excellent qualities in both books and people. . . . what this wonderful collection of her work for this paper makes abundantly clear is that she was a superb journalist. **Anna Carey, The Irish Times**

“Brimming with Binchy’s intelligence, incisive wit, straightforwardness and incomparable charm. **Pam Norfolk, Burnley Express**

“Like the best journalism, Maeve’s newspaper pieces stand the test of time. **John Spain, Irish Independent**

Maeve Binchy is the author of numerous best-selling books, including her most recent works, *Chestnut Street*, *A Week in Winter*, *Minding Frankie*, *Heart and Soul*, and *Whitethorn Woods*, as well as *Circle of Friends* and *Tara Road*, which was an Oprah’s Book Club selection. She began working for *The Irish Times* beginning in the early 1960s, and she wrote regularly for the newspaper in the decades that followed, including a weekly column that won her the hearts and minds of readers. Married to Gordon Snell, she lived in Dalkey, Ireland, until her death in July 2012.

www.maevebinchy.com

Because this is not a novel, I didn't expect to love it so much. In a way, it is autobiographical. I enjoyed getting to look inside Maeve Binchy's brain. She is and always will be one of my favorite authors. I love her insights, her humor, her style of writing - and this book is no exception. The more I got into it, the harder it was to lay it down.

She is a wonderful writer! Her descriptions of the life and times in England and Ireland are often funny and fun.

I have read every book that Maeve Binchy wrote and loved every word. This book was, certainly, no exception. It was interesting to, essentially, learn where her stories and characters originated. She gives us a great peek into what made her who she was and lets us share in her triumphs and disappointments along the way. You will not be disappointed in reading this book. The sad part is, she is no longer around, but good to know her stories and characters will live on. They are all worth reading again and again.

Each story was just as if she was talking to the reader. I will really miss her books!! Loved it.

I'm not a big short story fan, but in this book, I thoroughly enjoyed the collection of Maeve's stories from the Irish Times.

When you read this book you start to understand where she got some of her ideas for the stories of her books. Some of the chapters are really funny and you see the characters come to life.

What a treat to find a volume of Maeve Binchy's own words! Set up chronologically, the reader gets to hear Maeve grow through her experiences and observations. It is all classic Maeve -clearly written and refreshingly honest and a real view into her own experience of her life. Her death silenced her creative voice far too early. For Maeve Binchy fans, this book is a delightful find!

really enjoying her writing.

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