



The Midnight Court (Irish Studies)

Brian Merriman

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Banned and beloved in equal measure, *The Midnight Court* is a canonical eighteenth-century text widely considered to be one of the greatest comic Irish poems. Despite its simple story line, Merriman's poem addresses a wide range of themes from its satirical treatment of sexuality to its biting social commentary. This volume, the first critical edition, offers readers a fluid translation and five essays that contextualize the poem, making it an ideal text for any student of eighteenth-century Irish literature. Written specifically for the nonspecialist reader, Ó Conchubhair's edition contains notes, a glossary, a map, and explanations of the rhyme, meter, form, and genre that traditionally puzzle those unfamiliar with the Irishlanguage tradition. The essays explore the text's themes and allusions, acquainting readers with the poem's controversies and critics' competing interpretations of Merriman's achievement.

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