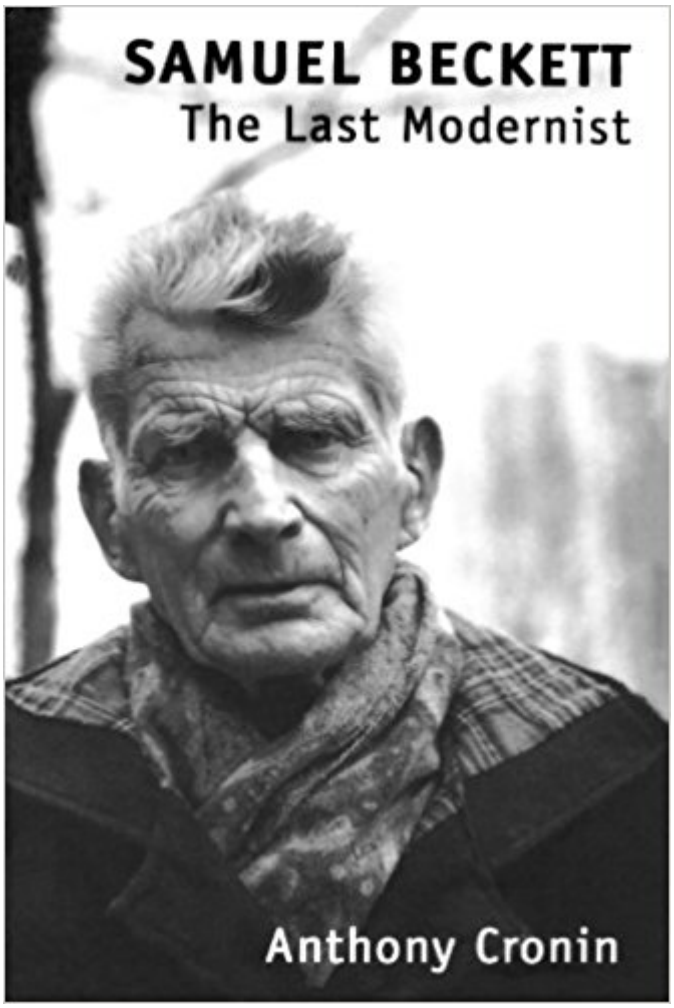
Ebook Directory
the best source of ebook

The book was found

Samuel Beckett: The Last Modernist



PDF
Adobe
DOWNLOAD EBOOK

Synopsis

Intensely private, possibly saintly, but perhaps misanthropic, Samuel Beckett was the most legendary and enigmatic of writers. Anthony Cronin’s biography is a revelation of this mythical figure as fully human and fallible, while confirming his enormous stature both as a man and a writer. Cronin explores how the sporty schoolboy of solid Protestant bourgeois stock became a prizewinning student at Trinity, flirted with scholarship, and, in Paris, found himself at the center of its literary avant-garde as an intimate friend of James Joyce. But he was a young man who struggled with complexities in his own nature as well as with problems of literary expression. In the small provincial city of Kassel, Germany, the cosmopolitan Beckett experienced a faltering entanglement with his cousin—one of the first in a series of problematic encounters with women. The war years, which he spent as a member of the Resistance and a refugee in the South of France, brought Beckett the self-probings and discoveries that led to the great works. Then, with his sudden and astonishing fame, the balloons of myth began to inflate and a stereotype was born—frozen in exile and enigma, solemnity and sanctity. Anthony Cronin bursts these balloons to see more clearly what lies behind. Without moralizing or psychologizing, without pretensions or piety, he uncovers the real Beckett, the way the life was lived, the way the art was made.

Book Information

Paperback: 645 pages
Publisher: Da Capo Press; Reprint edition (May 7, 1999)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0306808986
ISBN-13: 978-0306808982
Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.5 x 9 inches
Shipping Weight: 2.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews
Best Sellers Rank: #643,713 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #172 inÃ Â Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Irish #3746 inÃ Â Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Authors

Customer Reviews

Samuel Beckett has always been something of an enigma. Born and raised in Ireland, he moved to France as a young man and remained there, risking his life during the war in his work with the

French Resistance. Kind, generous, and often funny in real life, his plays and novels are implacably dark, filled with despair, need, and isolation. In Samuel Beckett: The Last Modernist, biographer Anthony Cronin limns a deft portrait of the great writer using Beckett's letters, early fiction, and Cronin's own acquaintance with both his subject and several of Beckett's friends in Dublin. Taken together, these sources reveal a multifaceted man. Beckett passed through many phases on his way to greatness: a French teacher at Dublin College, a member of the Paris circle that formed around James Joyce in the late 1920s, and later an active participant in the French Resistance. The years following World War II proved a fertile time in Beckett's creative life, encompassing his transition from the autobiographical to the modernist impersonal--perhaps his greatest works. Anthony Cronin admirably balances his portrayal of the man and the artist, rendering the details of Beckett's uneventful life and his rich imagination in a way that fleshes out the man even as it celebrates the genius. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Following close on the heels of James Knowlson's tremendous recent biography of Beckett, Damned to Fame (LJ 9/15/96), Irish poet and broadcaster Cronin's opus (published in England last year) is an altogether different effort. While both start and end at the same place and are similarly lengthy, Cronin's work arrives at the writing of Waiting for Godot (1948) almost two-thirds of the way into his work, concentrating on Beckett's early "modernist" years, with excellent coverage of Vichy France; in contrast, Knowlson offers intensive focus on the writing and production of Beckett's plays. Cronin is a fluid, witty writer who does not refrain from inserting his own editorial comments into Beckett's story; nor does he idolize his subject. Beckett's liaison with Barbara Bray, who is Cronin's friend, is fully fleshed here, to the exclusion of other romances, the details of which Knowlson has reliably supplied. While Knowlson cracked every safe to fill in his portrait, Cronin conjures the spirit of the man; well worth the purchase for diehard fans.?Amy Boaz, "Library Journal"Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

THIS IS A TALE ABOUT A VERY ANNOYED IRISHPERSON. NOT A WOMYN. BUT THE BEST IS YET TO COME.SEE ME AT #MORETOCOME

For a pretty fat bio, I found this a surprisingly easy and swift read. Cronin, who certainly knows the lay of the land, the type of people, and even some of the actual folks Beckett knew, seems a fair and judicious biographer. I found the book most useful in charting Beckett's development as an artist from the callow "knowingness" of his early novels and poems to the wry despair of his mature

work. One is impressed both by Beckett’s inconsistent touchiness about the handling of his work by adapters, and by his quiet generosity with near strangers as well as friends. Cronin includes plenty of delightful trivia, from quotes ("I am not a philosopher; one can only speak of what is in front of one and that is simply a mess") to the fact that Beckett always accented the first syllable of Godot.

A careful, highly readable and sometimes very amusing account of the life of the Irish novelist, playwright, theatre director and sports enthusiast. This gives a nuanced and sensitive account of the Irish background from which Beckett at first painfully extracted himself to a new life in France, but which he was always attached to sentimentally and creatively, never being too busy to meet with a young writer from Ireland, or to drink with old Irish friends and wax nostalgic about the Liffey. This book, while generally very admiring (Cronin has no time for the last novel), is actually more discerning and knowledgeable about Beckett’s affairs emotional, literary and dramatic, especially in the later years of his career when Cronin was one of the first to write about him at length in the TLS and elsewhere, as well as to meet him and ask questions such as, "Krapp seems to think he had the possibility of happiness...?" To which Beckett calmly replied, "That doesn’t mean he did though, does it?"You get a fair sense of the man and his times, and a more modulated sense of his slow climb to success, even after "Waiting for Godot" made his name. Never has fame seemed less romantic. Cronin is that best of acquaintance-biographers - no fool, but not an assassin either. Fun as well as thorough. I can’t think what will come to light to make a better biography possible.

I’ve just finished this biography at last, having dipped in and out over the least couple of years. I’m pretty knowledgeable about Beckett, having read just about everything and having immersed myself in criticism. This book is, by far, the most rewarding I have read. It wears theory lightly, has a reflective tone, relishes its subject and portrays Beckett’s life with sympathy, humor, intimacy and lovely, easy to read prose. Along with Beckett Remembering/Remembering Beckett, any reader will gain deep insights into the world of Beckett from Cronin’s book. Get this book, and enjoy! Far better than Cohn, Gontarski, Brater, etc, etc, etc.

Cronin is not afraid to psychoanalyze, turn a phrase, or get intellectual.Makes for a wonderfully readable and engaging biography.Cronin ranks up there will Ellman, Edel, and Richardson as one the greatest biographers ever.

If you seek to understand how a product of the Irish Protestant middle class a century ago managed

at an early age to overthrown any certainty brought about by such an upbringing, Cronin offers surmises to this and hundreds of other puzzles in the reticent Foxrock native's life. For a man who so esteemed silence, the impossibility of words to match our inner experiences and their outer raiments, Cronin's herculean cleaning out of the Augean stables, the poring through every scrap penned by Beckett, results in an extraordinarily thorough but never exhausting account ranging six hundred closely printed pages.As an adopted Dubliner, and as a working writer for fifty years, Cronin adds here to his earlier successes that pondered literary failure, or at least mediocrity, in what passed for bohemian life in the Irish capital of the postwar decade, 1945-55, Dead as Doornails, and in his life of Flann O'Brien/Myles na gCopaleen/Brian O Nolan, No Laughing Matter. Both of these have been reissued recently, and I recommend them to readers curious about how talent can drown its sorrows in too much whisky and its potential in too much talk with too little discipline. While this pair illustrates many anecdotes riotously rendered, the cumulative effect of the two accounts makes for sobering cautionary tales, and how the ghost of Joyce lingered long over last century.How Beckett managed to extricate himself from the early dominance of Joyce when the two met and depended upon each other however fleetingly in Paris makes for engrossing storytelling. What I noted most of all was how Cronin, through scouring Beckett's records, depicts an author amazingly crippled by maladies mostly psychosomatic, by imagined fears, by phobias befitting indeed his future characters. It takes until 1950 or so for this author, now in his mid-forties, to begin to enter into the period, after `the long siege in the room,' where he could come out of his shell and wrestle with his demons. Having fought, at first for the French Resistance (if his rather circumspect accomplishments fell less than dazzlingly in the Hollywood sense, his danger was no less real and the fate of his comrades no less fatal) and then against his interior desolation, he only then could become, well into middle age, the leader of the avant-garde we know him as, the creator of Godot and Endgame, Krapp and Malone, Molloy and Worm, Winnie and Gogo.In this brief overview of Cronin's tome, no quotes. But, for anyone needing an excellent prÃƒÂ©cis of what Beckett achieved, chapters 23 and 24 in my estimation serve as a thoughtful and by no means uncritical survey of how Beckett set up scaffolds, erected his plots, and then demolished as much of the structure as the work could stand and still survive.Of course, his later rather dead-end prose such as How It Is and his tinier plays, or dramaticules, produced as the 1960s and 70s found him caught within the expectations of comedians, scholars, analysts, and audiences, the productions shrank as he seemingly had less to say. As Beckett, at the start of his career, noted of Joyce, the elder Irishman strove to cram the whole of existence into the written word, while his successor sought to eliminate as much of the words and still capture the whole of the same human condition.

Two contrasting approaches, intersected by the love of language, the compulsion to manufacture it, and the doubt in any higher purpose than that of the artist driven to create and depict and narrate.Cronin's energy never flags. I happily measured how well he paces his own story. Godot appears only about 2/3 of the way through, and Cronin never stints on the earlier, more embarrassing malingering of the younger Beckett that presaged his rise to fame and irritated his naturally reclusive nature. His generousity, often remarked upon by those who knew and/or studied him, left many in his debt. Winning the Nobel Prize in 1969, he escaped on an extended holiday and gave away the prize money to a list of deserving up-and-coming writers. One bought a sports car with her windfall.Cronin, as one who knew and at least once offended Beckett, offers a counterpart to Damned by Fame, which appeared (as biographers often find) immediately prior to his own volume in 1996. James Knowlson, the keeper of the Beckett archive at the University of Reading (where a year's concentration and cash can earn you a MA in Beckett Studies), brought out the authorised biography, with more of the typical trajectory beloved by screenwriters, with Beckett's earlier, more derivatively jaunty, Joycean, or jejune scribblings preparing the way for a blossoming into challenging, disturbing, and, yes, humourous sketches of frailty, despair, and hope.For Cronin, Beckett's less a secular saint than a hypochondriacal mum's boy who, after coddling and a preparation for respectability, lived the life of the Irish exile (who kept decamping to London and even Dublin often enough) and finally had to grow up, support himself, and push his resources to plumb the darkness within. Out of this, he made stunningly evocative prose, for my tastes some of the best in the 20th century in English, full of cadences that, in the restricted French that he chose so as to limit himself to a harsher diet than that afforded the luxuriant Hiberno-English consumer, ghosted Irishisms, summoned English at its best, and shone through French.

Download to continue reading...

Samuel Beckett: The Last Modernist Modernist Cooking Made Easy: The Whipping Siphon: Create Unique Taste Sensations By Combining Modernist Techniques With This Versatile Tool Samuel Roth, Infamous Modernist Beckett Basketball Price Guide #24 (Beckett Basketball Card Price Guide) Beckett Racing Collectibles & Die-Cast Price Guide (Beckett Racing Collectibles and Die-Cast Price Guide) Beckett Racing Collectibles and Die-Cast Price Guide (Beckett Racing Collectibles Price Guide) Beckett Racing Price Guide and Alphabetical Checklist (Beckett Racing Collectibles and Die-Cast Price Guide, 7) Beckett Racing Collectibles and Die-Cast Price Guides (Beckett Racing Collectibles Price Guide) Beckett Racing Collectibles Price Guide (Beckett Racing Collectibles and Die-Cast Price Guide) Beckett Baseball Almanac #22 (Beckett Almanac of Baseball Cards and Collectibles) Beckett Basketball Price Guide #25 (Beckett Basketball Card Price Guide)

Beckett Hockey Price Guide #27 (Beckett Hockey Card Price Guide) Beckett Baseball Almanac #21 (Beckett Almanac of Baseball Cards and Collectibles) Beckett Hockey Price Guide #26 (Beckett Hockey Card Price Guide) Beckett 2015 Hockey Price Guide 24th Edition (Beckett Hockey Card Price Guide) The Official Beckett Price Guide to Baseball Cards 2010, Edition #30 (Beckett Official Price Guide to Baseball Card) The Beckett Official Price Guide to Football Cards 2011, Edition #30 (Official Price Guide to Football Cards (Beckett)) Beckett Almanac of Baseball Cards & Collectibles 2014 (Beckett Almanac of Baseball Cards and Collectibles) Beckett Racing Price Guide (Beckett Racing Collectibles) Damned to Fame: the Life of Samuel Beckett

Contact Us

DMCA

Privacy

FAQ & Help