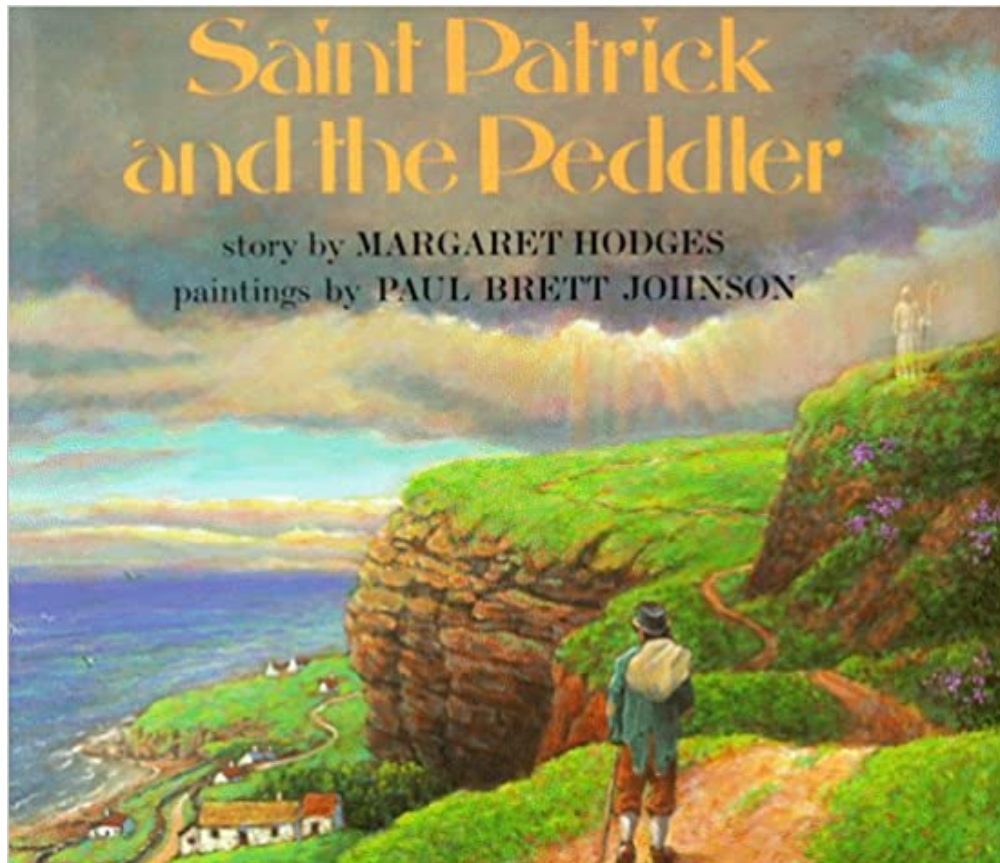




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Saint Patrick And The Peddler



Synopsis

Here is a lilting Irish tale concerning a kindly peddler in Ballymena, an old porridge pot, and a visit from the spirit of St. Patrick. The full-color panoramas are reminiscent of 19th-century English romantic painters.

Book Information

Hardcover: 1 pages

Publisher: Orchard Books; y First printing edition (September 1993)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0531054896

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Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 10.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,834,414 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #109 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > European](#)

Customer Reviews

Reshaping a tale found in both Jacobs's *More English Fairy Tales* and Sawyer's *The Way of the Storyteller* (as she explains in an excellent note), Hodges creates a briefer, more accessible tale retaining enough of Sawyer's Irish lilt for a pleasing flavor. A generous peddler has given away so much that he's destitute. Going to bed hungry--in his cabin near Ballymena, where Saint Patrick once lived--he dreams that the saint sends him to Dublin, where "you will hear what you were meant to hear." After the saint's third dream-visitation, the peddler complies and meets a Dubliner who scoffs at his own three dreams--about a treasure back in Ballymena, where the peddler duly finds it. In Sawyer's tale, he builds a chapel for weary travelers; here, the still-generous peddler's wealth allows him to have a beautiful wife and children, but the updated conclusion doesn't really change the story's essential tenor. Johnson renders an idyllic countryside in the spirit of Constable, but the romantic landscapes don't overwhelm the story (as Thomas Locker's tend to do); rather, they make a dramatic setting for the lively, effectively characterized figures. An auspicious blend of appealing story and engaging visual interpretation. (Folklore/Picture book. 4-10) -- Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

I loved reading this book to my kids because of the emphasis on the importance of paying attention

to the dreams we have at night.

The "Irish" story told in this short, 1993 book, despite the author's endnote about its origin, is very similar to the shorter story told in Uri Shulevitz's 1978 Caldecott Honor book, *The Treasure*. In both stories, a poor man travels many miles to meet someone on a bridge, where he is told that a treasure awaits him at home. In *The Treasure*, the man finds it in his stove; in *St. Patrick and...*, it is found under the hearth. Hodges adds many more details, specific place and personal names, and a message about the importance of literacy, but both stories are built on the same general framework.

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