



Grania: the Story of an Island [annotated]

Emily Lawless

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First published in 1892, *Grania* is the story of a fisherman's daughter from the Islands of Aran, off the coast of Galway. Grania O'Malley's life is circumscribed by family duty and her destiny as wife to her feckless fiancé, Murdough Blake. When she realises her wants her only for her money and property, Grania rejects him in favour of heroism, although with tragic consequences.

Through complex and skilled characterisation, Lawless evokes a vivid picture of island life, with its unforgiving landscape and grinding poverty. Using a unique poetic style, the author conveys both humour and a sense of Gaelic identity, inextricably linked with this remarkable community.

Algernon Swinburne described *Grania* as “one of the most exquisite and perfect works in the language” and Mrs Humphry Ward praised its “breath of sensitive humanity”. This scholarly edition, the first for twenty-five years, brings Emily Lawless's extraordinary novel to a new audience.

This edition includes:

- * critical introduction by Michael O'Flynn
- * extensive explanatory footnotes
- * selection of contemporary reviews
- * selection of essays, poems and letters by Emily Lawless
- * contextual material on the New Woman; marriage; motherhood; evolution; and literature and the novel

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