



Lady Gregory's Toothbrush

By Colm Toibin

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Lady Gregory's Toothbrush By Colm Toibin

'It is the battle between those who use a toothbrush and those who don't.' So wrote Augusta Gregory to W.B. Yeats; she was referring to the riots at the Abbey Theatre over *The Playboy of the Western World*, and she knew which side she was on. In this remarkable biographical essay, Colm Tóibín examines the contradictions that defined the position of this essential figure in Irish cultural history. The wife of a landlord and MP who had been personally responsible for introducing measures that compounded the misery of the Irish peasantry during the Great Famine, Lady Gregory devoted much of her creative energy to idealizing the same peasantry – while never abandoning the aristocratic *hauteur*, the social connections or the great house which her birth and marriage had bequeathed her. Early in her writing life, her politics were staunchly unionist – yet she campaigned for the freedom of Egypt from colonial rule. Later she wrote plays celebrating rebellion, but trembled in her bed when the Irish revolution threatened her property and her way of life. Lady Gregory's capacity to occupy mutually contradictory positions was essential to her heroic work as a founder and director of the Abbey Theatre – nurturing Synge and O'Casey, battling rioters and censors – and to her central role in the career of W. B. Yeats. She was Yeats's artistic collaborator (writing most of *Cathleen Ní Houlihan*, for example), his helpmeet, and his diplomatic wing. Tóibín's account of Yeats's attempts – by turns glorious and graceless – to memorize Lady Gregory's son Robert when he was killed in the First World War, and of Lady Gregory's pain at her loss and at the poet's appropriation of it, is a moving tour de force of literary history. Tóibín also reveals a side of Lady Gregory that is at odds with the received image of a chilly dowager. Early in her marriage to Sir William Gregory, she had an affair with the poet and anti-imperialist Wilfred Scawen Blunt and wrote a series of torrid love sonnets that Blunt published under his own name. Much later in life, as she neared her sixtieth birthday, she fell in love with the great patron of arts John Quinn, who was eighteen years her junior. Lady Gregory's *Toothbrush* is a sharp, concentrated, witty and much-needed reassessment of a major cultural figure who has been oddly taken for granted and often badly misunderstood.



[Download Lady Gregory's Toothbrush ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Lady Gregory's Toothbrush ...pdf](#)

Lady Gregory's Toothbrush

By Colm Toibin

Lady Gregory's Toothbrush By Colm Toibin

'It is the battle between those who use a toothbrush and those who don't.' So wrote Augusta Gregory to W.B. Yeats; she was referring to the riots at the Abbey Theatre over The Playboy of the Western World, and she knew which side she was on. In this remarkable biographical essay, Colm Toibín examines the contradictions that defined the position of this essential figure in Irish cultural history. The wife of a landlord and MP who had been personally responsible for introducing measures that compounded the misery of the Irish peasantry during the Great Famine, Lady Gregory devoted much of her creative energy to idealizing the same peasantry – while never abandoning the aristocratic hauteur, the social connections or the great house which her birth and marriage had bequeathed her. Early in her writing life, her politics were staunchly unionist – yet she campaigned for the freedom of Egypt from colonial rule. Later she wrote plays celebrating rebellion, but trembled in her bed when the Irish revolution threatened her property and her way of life. Lady Gregory's capacity to occupy mutually contradictory positions was essential to her heroic work as a founder and director of the Abbey Theatre – nurturing Synge and O'Casey, battling rioters and censors – and to her central role in the career of W. B. Yeats. She was Yeats's artistic collaborator (writing most of Cathleen Ní Houlihan, for example), his helpmeet, and his diplomatic wing. Toibín's account of Yeats's attempts – by turns glorious and graceless – to memorize Lady Gregory's son Robert when he was killed in the First World War, and of Lady Gregory's pain at her loss and at the poet's appropriation of it, is a moving tour de force of literary history. Toibín also reveals a side of Lady Gregory that is at odds with the received image of a chilly dowager. Early in her marriage to Sir William Gregory, she had an affair with the poet and anti-imperialist Wilfred Scawen Blunt and wrote a series of torrid love sonnets that Blunt published under his own name. Much later in life, as she neared her sixtieth birthday, she fell in love with the great patron of arts John Quinn, who was eighteen years her junior. Lady Gregory's Toothbrush is a sharp, concentrated, witty and much-needed reassessment of a major cultural figure who has been oddly taken for granted and often badly misunderstood.

Lady Gregory's Toothbrush By Colm Toibin Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #395729 in eBooks
- Published on: 2011-09-01
- Released on: 2011-09-01
- Format: Kindle eBook

 [Download Lady Gregory's Toothbrush ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Lady Gregory's Toothbrush ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Lady Gregory's Toothbrush By Colm Toibin

Editorial Review

Review

'Biographical portraits are too often nowadays smudged in a surfeit of words... this one is a brilliant illumination' Spectator

Review

'Biographical portraits are too often nowadays smudged in a surfeit of words... this one is a brilliant illumination' Spectator

About the Author

Colm Tóibín's novel, *The Blackwater Lightship*, was shortlisted for the Booker Prize. His books include the novels *The South*, *The Heather Blazing*, and *The Story of the Night*, and the essay collection *Love in a Dark Time*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Barbie Brookins:

What do you regarding book? It is not important together with you? Or just adding material when you want something to explain what the ones you have problem? How about your time? Or are you busy individual? If you don't have spare time to perform others business, it is give you a sense of feeling bored faster. And you have spare time? What did you do? Everyone has many questions above. They need to answer that question mainly because just their can do which. It said that about publication. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is right. Because start from on pre-school until university need that Lady Gregory's Toothbrush to read.

Lauren Veach:

Information is provisions for folks to get better life, information presently can get by anyone with everywhere. The information can be a information or any news even a problem. What people must be consider whenever those information which is within the former life are challenging be find than now could be taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one the particular resource are convinced. If you find the unstable resource then you have it as your main information you will see huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen inside you if you take Lady Gregory's Toothbrush as your daily resource information.

Beverly Hill:

The book with title Lady Gregory's Toothbrush has a lot of information that you can discover it. You can get a lot of benefit after read this book. This specific book exist new knowledge the information that exist in this guide represented the condition of the world today. That is important to yo7u to find out how the improvement of the world. This particular book will bring you with new era of the the positive effect. You

can read the e-book in your smart phone, so you can read this anywhere you want.

Victor Havens:

Can you one of the book lovers? If yes, do you ever feeling doubt if you are in the book store? Make an effort to pick one book that you just dont know the inside because don't judge book by its handle may doesn't work this is difficult job because you are scared that the inside maybe not while fantastic as in the outside seem likes. Maybe you answer might be Lady Gregory's Toothbrush why because the great cover that make you consider with regards to the content will not disappoint a person. The inside or content is usually fantastic as the outside as well as cover. Your reading 6th sense will directly show you to pick up this book.

Download and Read Online Lady Gregory's Toothbrush By Colm Toibin #U2VD1NJ7648

Read Lady Gregory's Toothbrush By Colm Toibin for online ebook

Lady Gregory's Toothbrush By Colm Toibin Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Lady Gregory's Toothbrush By Colm Toibin books to read online.

Online Lady Gregory's Toothbrush By Colm Toibin ebook PDF download

Lady Gregory's Toothbrush By Colm Toibin Doc

Lady Gregory's Toothbrush By Colm Toibin MobiPocket

Lady Gregory's Toothbrush By Colm Toibin EPub