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The Largest Baby in Ireland After the Famine

By Anne Barnett

Paperback. Book Condition: New. Not Signed; As the title of Anne Barnett's debut novel suggests, this is a tale that makes things bigger than they are. The everyday, intricate dramas of a 1920s mid-Ulster rural community are observed with the grace, humour and languor of a fine story-telling voice that is assured, romantic and replete with the dour idiomatic phrases of people who never travel beyond a 10-mile radius. In the townland of Ballymully, near Cookstown, lives Felix Campbell, a Protestant and a bachelor through and through, who at 42, dreams of a woman in purple. He grew up in a glen with a glen-shaped soul, and baptism in his heart and catechism in his mind, unprepared for the tribulations of high emotion, so when he falls for Sarah-Ann O'Malloran, a big bawdy widow with 14 children, his soul sparks for the first time and he discovers lonesomeness. In Sarah-Ann, irrepressible, idiosyncratically attired and unconcerned about the morals of a very small town in the centre of a very small country, Barnett creates an exceptionally vivid, larger-than-life character, who was born weighing in at 13 pounds, is the novel's eponymous heroine. Not only does she cavort...



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Reviews

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