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Nota di contenuto	Front Matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- Editorial Practice -- Suggested Thematic Groupings -- Essays: 1928–39 -- The Cruelty and Beauty of Words -- Censorship in America -- Celts and Irishmen -- Literary Provincialism -- The Modern Novel: A Catholic Point of View -- Revamping Ireland -- Roger Casement -- Dickens and Thackeray -- Daniel Corkery -- The Dangers of Censorship -- Don Quixote O'Flaherty -- Æ and W.B -- Essays: 1940–45 -- This is Your Magazine -- Jack B. Yeats -- Frederick Robert Higgins (1896—1941) -- Ah, Wisha! The Irish Novel -- Standards and Taste -- Ulster -- Our Nasty Novelists -- The Gaelic League -- The Mart of Ideas -- That Typical Irishman -- The Senate and Censorship -- Gaelic – The Truth -- Ireland and the Modern World -- On State Control -- Books and a Live People -- The Strange Case of Sean O'Casey -- The Stuffed Shirts -- Shadow and Substance -- The Plain People of Ireland -- The State and its Writers -- The University Question -- Toryism in Trinity -- One World -- The Pleasures and Pains of Ireland -- The Gaelic Cult -- Eamon de Valera -- Romance and Realism -- One World: An Irish Council -- All Things Considered – 1 -- All Things Considered – 2 -- Essays: 1946–76 -- Shaw's Prefaces -- Rebel by Vocation -- On Translating from the Irish -- The Dilemma of Irish Letters -- Religious Art -- Autoantiamericanism -- The Death of Nationalism -- The Dáil and the Bishops -- On a Recent Incident at the International Affairs

"Sean O'Faolain (1900-1991) was one of the most important Irish writers in the first half of the twentieth century. He is most admired and best remembered for his 90 or so short stories, which first appeared in book form in 1932 and continued to do so until his Collected Stories were published in 1980. But he also wrote novels, biographies, travel, a memoir, and so on. O'Faolain joined the IRA as a young man and fought in the Irish War of Independence. By the 1930s his politics had altered. He lived for a time in both the United States and England before returning to Ireland (and eventually becoming director of the Irish Arts Council), and became known as an outspoken critic of the narrow conservatism and provincialism of Irish society. Especially important in this light are the years between 1940 and 1946, when he served as editor of The Bell, the most important cultural magazine in Dublin at the time."--

"This book includes a generous selection of O'Faolain's essays, just over half of them written for The Bell, but also others that first appeared in a variety of magazines in the USA and the UK as well as Ireland. They span a period from 1928 to 1976. The state of Ireland--its politics, history, religion, censorship, languages, literature and culture--is a constant and predominant theme. But the book also includes essays on other topics, e.g. Charles Dickens, censorship in America, religious art, and the final "Portrait of the Artist as an Old Man." Brad Kent has added voluminous notes and an illuminating introduction that sets O'Faolain in the context, not only of Irish writers, but of public intellectuals in his time elsewhere."--
