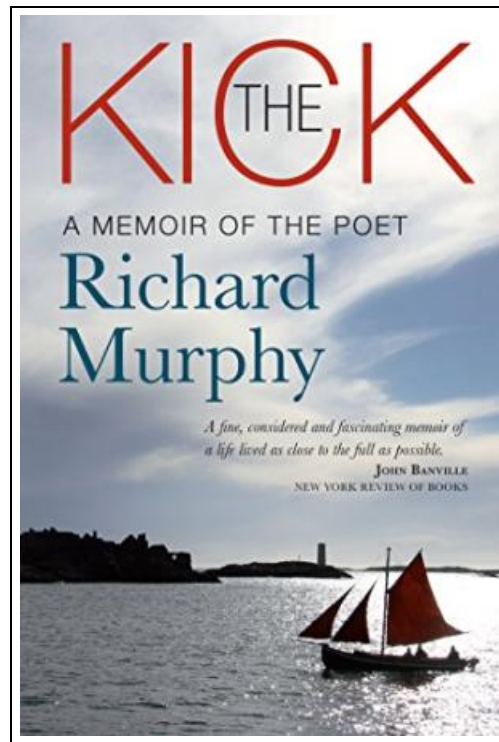


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THE KICK: A MEMOIR OF THE POET RICHARD MURPHY (HARDBACK)

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Cork University Press, Ireland, 2017. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. The Kick is a page-turner, based upon private diaries kept over the long life and disjointed times of the poet Richard Murphy. Born (1927) in the relics of a walled demesne near Kilamine, County Mayo, he was shipped out and back twice to the British Crown Colony of Ceylon, where his father was a colonial administrator. Thereafter he was moved every two years or so to a different boarding school for boys, mostly in England, until he won an Oxford scholarship at 17. There he encountered Ken Tynan (a bit older) and C.S. Lewis in extraordinary circumstances. One life story follows another in a continuous, witty, ironical narrative of surprising events. Murphy writes, according to Karl Miller, with candour and dignity, for example about personal issues, such as his ambivalent sexuality at a time of legal intolerance. This once led him into a risk of blackmail or prison in London at the age of 22. But dark events are countered by sea-light in this redeeming book. The fear of death from a German rocket falling on Wellington College in 1944 starts Murphy writing sonnets. He is aware that he is not a born poet and until T.S. Eliot accepts his volume *Sailing to an Island* for publication by Faber in 1963, he does not presume to call himself a poet. Sheep-farming in the Wicklow Hills and reseeding marginal land with deep-rooting herbs with lovely names, such as chicory, burnet, yarrow and wild white clover, take all his attention during his marriage - to the dismay of his wife. Then after his divorce in 1959, meeting Tony White from London on the quay of Inishbofin, Murphy begins another life as the owner of an old Galway hooker, the Ave Maria,...

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