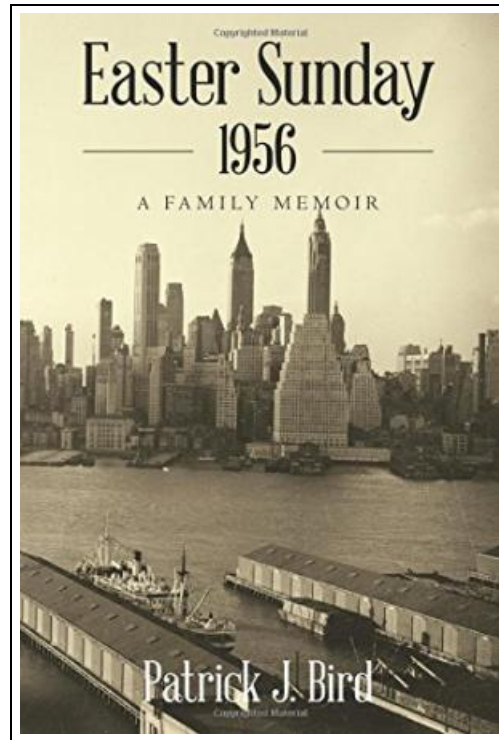


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The Big Apple-Hellgate Press. Paperback. Condition: New. 134 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.3in. Poignant, yet often funny, Easter Sunday 1956 tells of a tragedy in the life of a New York City working-class family. The story begins on Easter Eve as the City of Swansea docks at Brooklyns Pier 5. Jack, ships carpenter, watches the mooring lines being secured. Melancholia dampens his usual high spirits on arrival in port. For this is his last ship. On return to Liverpool, he is to retire after fifty years in the British Merchant Service. But Jack will never return to England. In Astoria, Bill, a hard drinking house painter, has placed chairs from OShays Funeral around his living room for guests attending his brothers retirement party. He then has gone off to ODonnells Bar for a quick one. In the kitchen, Bills wife, Nan, a feisty Irish woman with MS, and her spinster sister, Margaret, debate the sinfulness of viewing TV wrestlin. Jack arrives, is fondly greeted, and dispatched by Nan to rescue the ol goat from the bar. Seven-year-old Johnny comes home and is sent after his pop and uncle who have been delayed by a failed jockeys bizarre story. Johnny returns, men in tow, and with a joke for his mom. The OShays chairs are mostly occupied, including by an accordionist and banjo player. Rounds of singing, Jacks rendition of The Pig and the Inebriate, and Nans story of Irelands sacred donkeys kick off the festivities. With alcohol and time, the party degenerates and concludes with a human tug-o-war that humiliates Bill, mortifies Johnny, and infuriates his mom. Later Nan enters Johnnys bedroom cradling a bust of Winston Churchill, Bills prize possession. Johnny, half asleep, watches her open the bedroom window and shove the statesman out. The bust drops two...

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