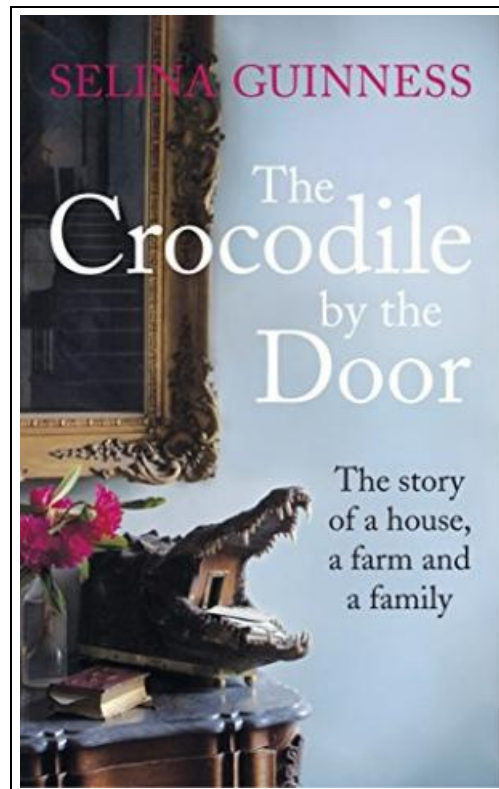


The Crocodile By the Door



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Reviews

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THE CROCODILE BY THE DOOR



Penguin Ireland, 2012. Hardcover. Condition: New. The Crocodile by the Door by Selina Guinness - shortlisted for the Costa Biography Award - is a remarkable, compelling and moving memoir of a farm, a family and a home. When Selina Guinness and her partner Colin, both young academics, moved in with Selina's uncle Charles, an elderly bachelor, they had no idea what the coming years held for them: a crash course in farming, tense discussions with helicopter-borne property developers, human tragedy, and the challenge of dragging a quasi-feudal estate at the edge of Dublin into the twenty-first century. The Crocodile by the Door - a dazzling debut memoir that will appeal to fans of Edmund de Waal, William Fiennes and Richard Benson's *The Farm* - tells this remarkable story. Selina Guinness lives in the Dublin mountains with her husband, their children, and a lot of sheep. The Crocodile by the Door is her first book. 'Something close to a small masterpiece . enchanting and hopeful' Miranda Seymour, Daily Telegraph (five stars) 'A surprisingly entertaining primer on the travails of farming today, from ungovernable sheep to unfathomable bureaucracy; a fascinating glimpse of what had become of the Anglo-Irish by the late 20th century and into the 21st; an elegant modern pastoral and, at the same time, an astute dismantling of that genre; and a meditation on the meaning of labour, and on how hard work shapes identity as well as achievement. A remarkable book' Belinda McKeon, Guardian 'Guinness is an astute observer and stylish chronicler of landscape, architecture and human character. . she describes her domestic setbacks and achievements with engaging candour.' Irish.



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