

IRIS MURDOCH

“The Black Prince” (1973)



Lysenko Olga 10-A

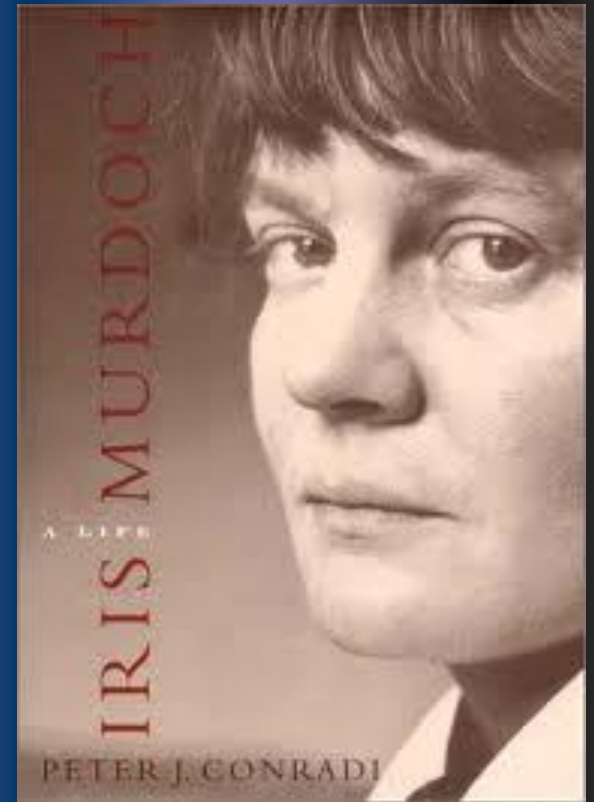
WOMEN WRITERS – IRIS MURDOCH

*"We live in a fantasy, a world of illusion.
The great task in life is to find reality."*

*"Writing is like getting married. One
should never commit oneself until one
is amazed at one's luck."*

BIOGRAPHY

- born in 1919 in Dublin
- died in 1999 in Oxford
- teacher of philosophy in Oxford



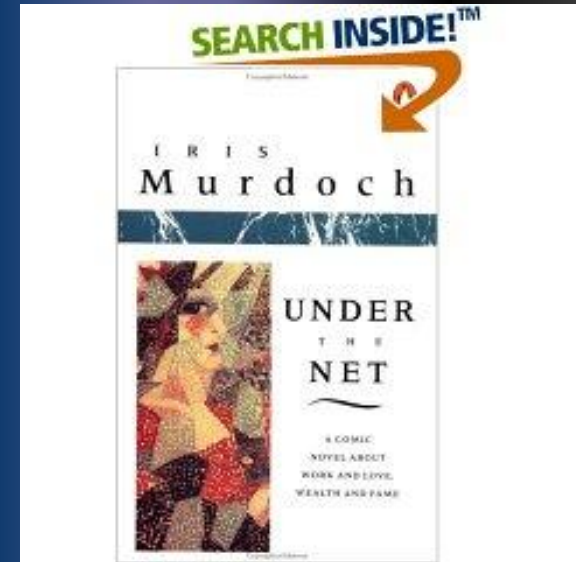
IRIS MURDOCH – GENRES, TOPICS, NOVELS

GENRES

- 26 thought-provoking novels
- Numerous plays
- Book of poetry: *A Year of the Birds*, 1978
- Numerous philosophical essays:

Sartre: Romantic Rationalist

The Fire and the Sun: Why Plato Banished the Artists



IRIS MURDOCH – GENRES, TOPICS, NOVELS

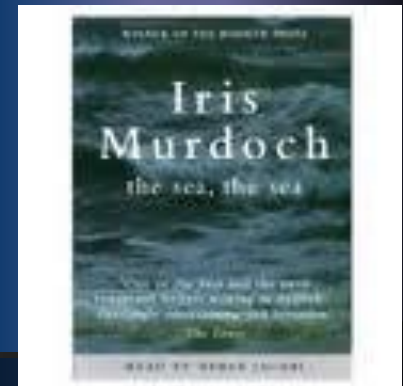
TOPICS

- Comic, pathetic, difficult or embarrassing life situations
- Modern love stories
- Modern variations of friendship, fame, wealth
- Emotional and intellectual paralysis of modern man



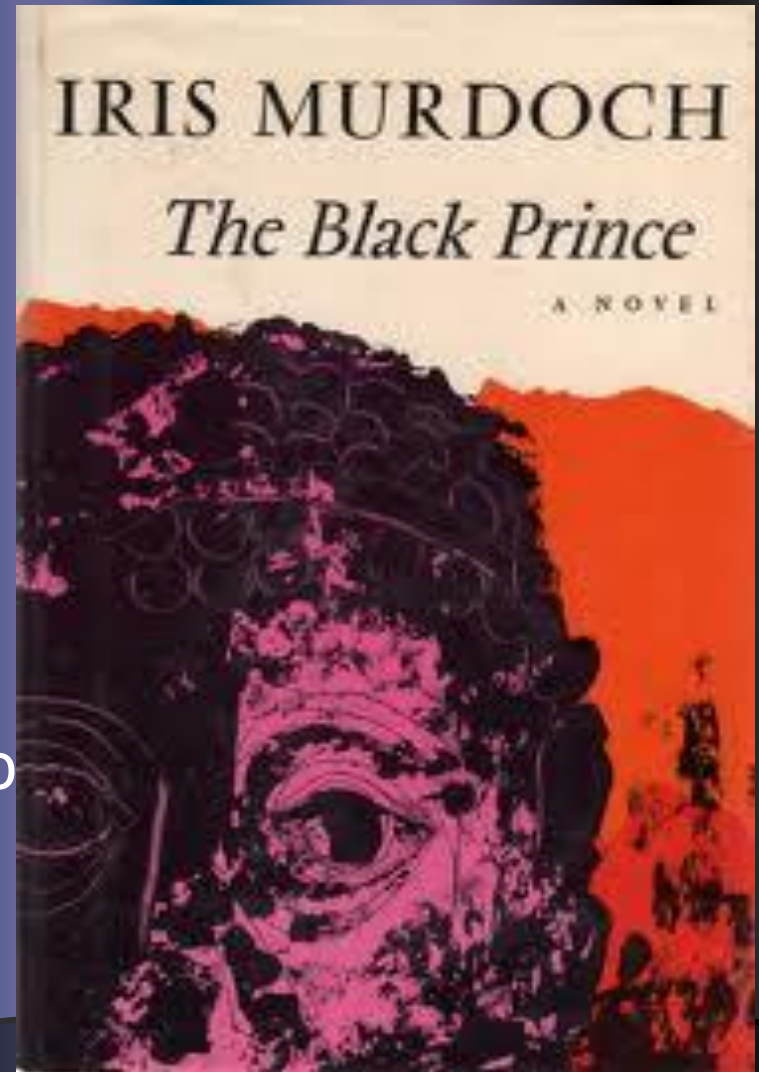
NOVELS BY IRIS MURDOCH

- *Under the Net*; 1954
- *The Bell*; 1958
- *The Nice and The Good*; 1968
- *The Black Prince*; 1973
- *The Sea, The Sea*; 1978
- *The Jacob's Dilemma*; 1995



"The Black Prince" (1973)

- *The Black Prince* is widely considered the best of Murdoch's novels. It won the James Tait Black Memorial Prize in its year of publication. It was, like almost all of her novels, a resounding popular success.
- Part metaphysical enquiry into the nature of art and truth, part romantic liaison, part psychological thriller.



CHARACTER LIST

Bradley Pearson - the main character of the novel and also the one who writes the majority of it. In the beginning of the book, Bradley is a cold, occasionally cruel man.

Arnold Baffin - The very successful popular writer whom Bradley is accused of killing at the end of the novel.

Rachel Baffin - The wife of Arnold Baffin.

Julian - the twenty-year old daughter of Arnold and Rachel Baffin, with whom Bradley falls in love.

Francis Marloe — his primary role in the novel is comic.

Priscilla Saxe - The sister of Bradley Pearson.

Christian Evansdale - Bradley Pearson's ex-wife.

Roger Saxe - Priscilla's husband and Bradley Pearson's brother-in-law.

Marigold - Roger Saxe's mistress who is pregnant with his child.

P. Loxias - The editor of the novel.

Hartbourne - A friend of Bradley's from work.

Oscar Belling - Julian's ex-boyfriend.

THEMES

1.) Art as a Vehicle for Truth

2.) Eros's Facilitation of Expression

3.) The Randomness of Life

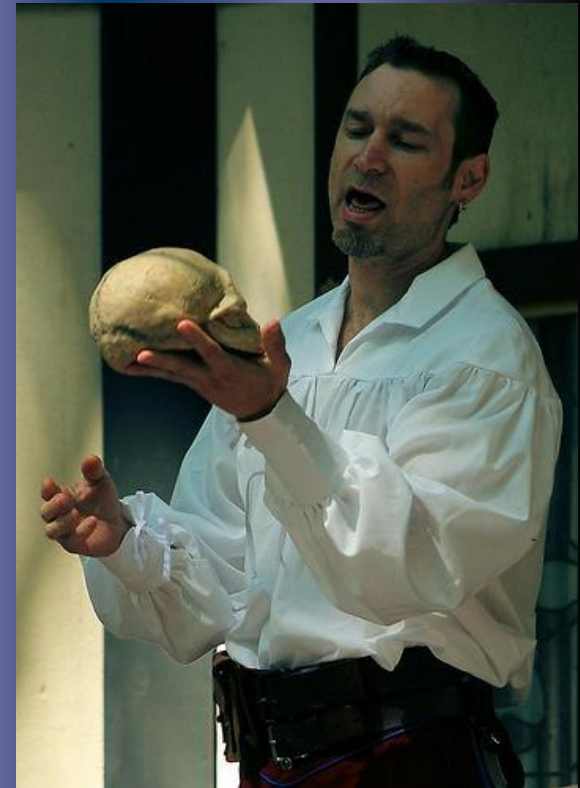


MOTIFS

-Marriage :the Black Prince begins and ends with a domestic quarrel between a married couple.

-Hamlet :Hamlet is major motif in the novel. Hamlet's characters, text, and themes recur several times.

-Feet and Boots :attention to Julian's feet is a motif that chronicles the sexual awakening of Bradley.



SYMBOLS

Kites

The kite symbolizes the glimpse of the eternal that he is soon to get, but has not yet received.

Priscilla's jewels

They represent her sole legacy, but it is a sad legacy, as jewels are cold, meaningless items whose primary significance is their monetary value.

Der Rosenkavalier

The opera has a special symbolic role because it contains sexual partners of grossly different ages, similar to the one in The **Black Prince**.



INTERNET SOURCES

<http://www.aesthetics-online.org/memorials/bonzon.html>

<http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/imurdoch.htm>

<http://www.nytimes.com/books/98/12/20/specials/murdoch-prince.html>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iris_Murdoch