Finally. A handy, well-written reference work on Irish women that’s almost easy to use (give me alphabetical order any day in a reference book—you can always weave categories into the text or create an index for that purpose). As the jacket proclaims: “Writers. Killers. Nuns. Patriots. Artists. Healers.” You can pretty much take it from there. The subjects range from the usual suspects, like Lady Augusta Gregory, Maud Gonne, and Kitty (Katherine) O’Shea, to Bridget Cleary, burned as a changeling in the 19th century, and Anne Bonny (though strangely not Grace O’Malley), occupation pirate. For admission into the collection these women had to be fascinating, historical (deceased), and have an Irish connection. Each entry runs to a few pages and provides enough reliable information to answer a quick question or serve as a starter source for students at both the secondary and postsecondary levels. A good addition for school and college libraries with women’s studies and Irish studies programs, it is suitable for any solid undergraduate general collection. A glossary and a bibliography are included.

REVIEWER: Kathleen Cain is TBR’s Bloomsbarian.