

The New Books for Younger Readers |



From a Drawing by Hilda Van Stockum for "Pegeen."

An Irish Heroine

PEGEEN. Written and illustrated by Hilda Van Stockum. 268 pp. New York: The Viking Press. \$2.

To many of this author's readers the Bantry Bay country is already a familiar and favorite part of Ireland. This third story returns to Glengariff and the O'Sullivans, who will be remembered in "The Cottage at Bantry Bay." A new element dawns upon their generous family life when Pegeen arrives to pay them a visit. She and Francie had become friends in the preceding volume, "Francie on the Run." But the time has since come for Pegeen to rely upon her friends, her grandmother's death having left her alone. While Father Kelly is arranging for her to join her uncle in America the sad-eyed little girl gratefully accepts this one last chance for fun.

Pegeen is a memorable character, a wild, warm-hearted, imaginative little girl, one of the truly Irish heroines in children's literature. Her escapades, repentances, her good deeds and their frequently bad results make a lively record. Yet the good outweighed, for when Father Kelly came with arrangements for her journey Francie's mother found she could not spare this second daughter. So Pegeen is to live in the Bantry Bay cottage with these people whom she dearly loves.

This well-written, sensitive and human story is in the author's best vein and her drawings are

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in excellent keeping. The two preceding volumes are unnecessary to the understanding of this present one. Girls 10 and over will heartily accept this disturbing and lovable new personality.

I. S.

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