

**NO NAME
SERIES: DEIRDRE**

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No Name Series: Deirdré by Robert Dwyer Joyce

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ROBERT DWYER JOYCE

**NO NAME
SERIES: DEIRDRE**

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NO NAME SERIES.

"IS THE GENTLEMAN ANONYMOUS? IS HE A GREAT UNKNOWN?"

DANIEL DERONDA.

DEIRDRE.

By
Robertson

^c
BOSTON:

ROBERTS BROTHERS.

.1876.

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ARGUMENT.

THE King of Eman goes to a banquet in the house of Feilimid, his Story-teller. During the festivity, Deirdrè, the daughter of Feilimid, is born. Caffa prophesies of her future beauty, and of the destruction it will bring on Eman and on the King and nobility. The nobles thereupon demand the death of the infant; but the King orders her to be shut up in a strong place till she grows old enough to become his wife. In course of time, Deirdrè and Naisi, son of Usna, fall in love with one another; and Naisi and his two brothers carry her away to Alba, and take military service under the King. The Albanian King falls in love with Deirdrè, and tries to compass the death of Naisi and his brothers, who escape with Deirdrè to a certain beautiful island in the sea. Thence they are decoyed by the King of Eman, who gives surety for their safety. They return under the guarantee of Fergus, son of Roy; but the King, breaking his oath, has them murdered on the Green of Eman. The lamentations of Dierdrè, and her death.

THE action of this poem begins near Armagh, north of Ireland, in the ancient palace of Emania, wherein dwelt at that time Connor, the renowned and powerful King of Ulster. It then changes northward to the coast opposite Rathlin Island; whence, finding their fleet burnt by the King's troops, the Usnianian princes fly westward, till they arrive at the sound between Tory Island and the mainland, where the galleys of the Fomorian pirates are lying at anchor. There their herald is treacherously slain by Talc, the Fomorian King, and they betake themselves towards the south till they come to the beautiful plain of Irris Domnan, in Mayo, where they accept the hospitality of Keth, the great captain of the troops of Mab and Olild, joint sovereigns of Connaught. Thence they proceed westward to the coast of Irris Domnan, where they slay the Fomorians and capture their fleet, in which they sail away round the northern shores for Alba, or Scotland. Crossing that part of the Atlantic between the Giant's Causeway, Isla, and Alba, anciently called the Sea of Moyle, they sail northward by the coast of Cantyre, and at last take refuge, and build their dun, or town, near Loch Etive, in Argyle. Here they accept military service under the young Albanian King, who, hearing of the exceeding beauty of Deirdrè, falls in love with her. Thereupon the three Usnianian princes, with Deirdrè and their tribe, take refuge in one of the Hebridean Islands; whence after some time they are decoyed by the agents of the King of Ulster. They sail again back to the Irish coast, and land at Beal Farsad, now Belfast; whence they march inland to Emania, where the action of the story ends with the slaughter of themselves and their whole tribe.

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DEIRDRE.

THE FEAST IN THE HOUSE OF FEILIMID.

IT happened in Eman at the joyous time
When wood-flowers bloomed, and roses in their
prime
Laughed round the garden, and the new-fledged
bird
'Mid the thick leaves its downy winglets stirred,
That the King's Story-teller, Feilimid,
'Mong all the bloom that, like a bright robe, hid
The earth's dark places, felt himself full sad,
He knew not why, and sent, to make him glad,
His henchman with a message to the king,
The nobles and the knights, and all, to bring
From the bright palace straightway to his house,
That they might hold therein a gay carouse.