

narratives recounted by those who shared the journey with her, and tales from Celtic myth and folklore. She calls upon women to re-imagine their place in the world and to rise up, firmly rooted in their own native landscapes and stories. In doing so, she seeks to renew the world, address the repression of women, and heal the planet as well.

Joseph Campbell's themes pertaining to the Wasteland and the Heroine's Journey are present throughout, and the book contains a number of relevant poems (including Blackie's own) as well as photographs portraying the incredible landscapes which she inhabits. She teaches us about many things: reclaiming our stories, embracing the call, undertaking pilgrimage, restoring balance, and becoming elders, in a clear, sparking prose that shines forth powerfully from the inner light inside her soul.

Not all of the examples of the stories she provides are from ancient Celtic myth: some are early medieval Irish literature, while others hail from pan-European medieval contexts. Still other examples come from the realm of modern folklore. Although the original meaning of these stories

would have been very different in the eras and cultures in which they were produced, in Blackie's capable hands they provide powerful

examples of how women may have once interacted with their world, and how they can do so now.

Blackie is at her best when describing in detail her perceptions and deeply personal explorations of the sacred land itself, and these passages border on the transcendent.

She explores stories pertaining to wells and islands, caves and lakes, moors and bogs, forest and fields, and mountains and rocky heights. Her power as a writer and visionary shines forth powerfully here, and these sections are some of the best spiritual writing I have seen. What would happen if women rose rooted? Tales from women in the landscape provide powerful examples of transformed lives. Blackie does an admirable job of describing a beautiful, rich, intoxicating, messy, terrifying and ultimately illuminating pathway into the heart of the land and of our own souls. Recommended. *Review by Sithearan NicLeoid*

*If Women Rose Rooted:
The Power of Celtic Woman*

SHARON BLACKIE

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This book seems destined to become a classic in Goddess and NeoPagan circles. British writer and poet Sharon Blackie spent time in the corporate world and the state of matrimony, only to find herself feeling utterly lost. She wound up in a number of fascinating situations where she encountered the power of the land in a life-altering way, and became drawn to stories of women in Celtic contexts.

These stories, rooted in the land and the culture of her ancestors, began to provide a path forward into wholeness and empowerment, and Blackie pours her soul into this wonderfully-written book in order to share her experiences. Blackie traces her long journey back to authenticity, rootedness, and belonging, alternating between personal accounts,

