

CONTENTS

Translator's Note and Acknowledgements	page vii
Artist's Note	viii
Introduction	ix
Maps	xvii
I The Ireland of the Táin	
II The Route of the Táin	
III In Conaille and Cuailnge	
Some Recommended Books	xxiv
Pronunciation of Irish Words	xxv

BEFORE THE TAIN

How the Táin Bó Cuailnge was found again	i
Conchobor:	
How Conchobor was Begotten and how he took the Kingship of Ulster	3
The Pangs of Ulster	6
Exile of the Sons of Uisliu	8
Cúchulainn:	
How Cúchulainn was Begotten	21
Cúchulainn's Courtship of Emer and his Training in Arms with Scáthach	25
The Death of Aife's One Son	39
The Quarrel of the Two Pig-keepers and how the Bulls were Begotten	46

THE TAIN

I The Pillow Talk	52
II The Táin Bó Cuailnge begins	58
III The Army Encounters Cúchulainn	65
IV Cúchulainn's Boyhood Deeds	76
V 'death death!'	92
VI From Finnabair Chuailnge to Conaille	100

VII	Single Combat	114
VIII	The Bull is Found. Further Single Combats. Cúchulainn and the Morrígan	125
IX	The Pact is Broken. The Great Carnage	137
X	Combat with Fergus and others	156
XI	Combat of Ferdia and Cúchulainn	168
XII	Ulster Rises from its Pangs	206
XIII	The Companies Advance	224
XIV	The Last Battle	238
	Notes on the Text	255