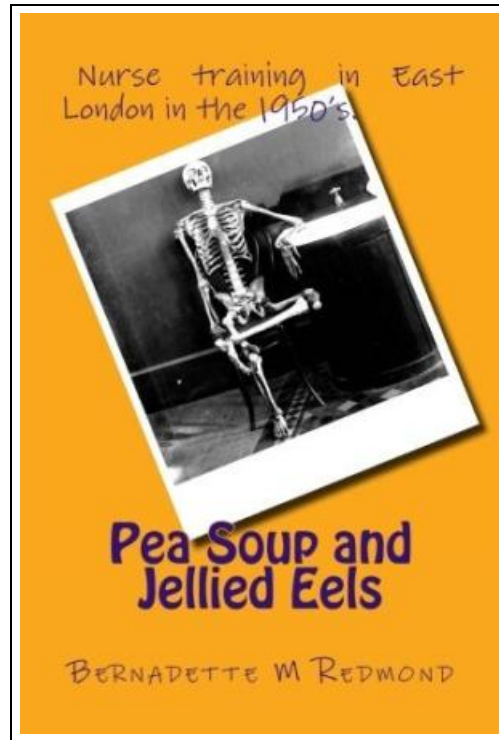


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Reviews

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PEA SOUP AND JELLIED EELS: MEMOIR



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CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Paperback. Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. 140 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.3in. The scene changes from the Dublin of the previous trilogy as the author arrives in Poplar in 1957 to train as a nurse in St. Andrews Hospital in Bromley-by-Bow. In doing so she ignored the dire warnings of the Matron of a Dublin Hospital where she was undertaking a pre-training course that the East End slums were a hotbed of depravity. However never one to kow-tow to authority her meeting with Grace Laing on a recruitment drive decided her fate. At a time when a home grown supply of trainees were in short supply English hospital Matrons went to Ireland on recruitment drives. It was in Dublins grand hotel lounges the Matrons scrutinised and interrogated prospective recruits while consuming coffee and biscuits. In Bernadettes case this ended up with a choice of hospitals in Birmingham, Liverpool, London and Manchester. It was Grace Laing; the Matron of St. Andrews Hospital in London, whose genuine interest in the prospective trainees individual backgrounds and reasons for emigrating that decided her choice. Londons East End it was. This memoir of her SRN training is humourous, knowledgeable and a snapshot in time of a much loved District Hospital, inspiring Matron, dedicated staff and appreciative patients. However this is not a rose tinted retrospective. There are no ministering angels here. Long hours and hard work put paid to that. Back street abortions, terrible injuries on the docks, chronic bronchitis, tuberculosis and life threatening childhood diseases were the reality of nursing life in an era of primitive diagnostic equipment and pharmacology in its infancy. Her description of the Juju Men is priceless as is her encounter with the Randy Dandy. Other sadder tales overshadowed by the spectre...



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