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New Writing from Ireland

Ireland Literature Exchange – Promoting Irish literature abroad



WELCOME

New Writing from Ireland has a fresh new look for 2009/2010. For the past five years, the catalogue cover has featured works by renowned Irish artist, Seán McSweeney. This year, we are proud to present the work of another contemporary Irish artist, Donald Teskey, whose powerful and evocative images reflect the extraordinary wealth of talent to be found right across the arts in Ireland.

The interior of the catalogue also has a new look and feel, bringing you fifty-four of the best new works by Irish writers for 2009. The calibre of the entries in this year's catalogue is very impressive, with new works by Colm Tóibín, William Trevor, John Banville, Colum McCann, Christine Dwyer Hickey, Claire Kilroy and Ed O'Loughlin featured in our fiction section, as well as exciting new titles from children's literature writers such as Celine Kiernan, Michael Scott and Derek Landy.

As always, Ireland's poets are well represented, and this year's catalogue features Ciaran Carson, Peter Sirr and Vona Groarke, to name but a few. Ireland continues to produce excellent non-fiction, and works such as Declan Kiberd's fascinating study of Joyce's masterpiece, *Ulysses and Us*, and *Flowing, Still: Irish Poets on Irish Poetry* edited by Pat Boran are testament to that tradition.

Publishers, translators, agents or other parties interested in these titles or with questions about Ireland Literature Exchange and its work can visit us at the Frankfurt and London book fairs, or online at www.irelandliterature.com

We are confident that the catalogue, this year in particular, presents an exceptionally rich cross-section of the very best of contemporary Irish literature. We hope you enjoy it.

Rita McCann
Programme & Publications Officer

Sinéad Mac Aodha
Director

Fractured Shoreline II, 2006 © Donald Teskey.
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Design, typesetting and layout by Language, Dublin.
www.language.ie

Printed in Dublin, Ireland, August 2009.
ISSN: 1649-959X

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IRELAND LITERATURE EXCHANGE

Ireland Literature Exchange (ILE) is the national agency in Ireland for the promotion of Irish literature abroad. The organisation works to build an international awareness and appreciation of contemporary Irish literature, primarily in translation.

A not-for-profit organisation, Ireland Literature Exchange is funded by Culture Ireland and by both Arts Councils in Ireland.

Established in 1994, ILE has supported the translation of over 1,200 works of Irish literature into 46 languages around the world.

ILE's activities include:

- Organising a translation grant programme
- Offering bursaries to literary translators
- Co-ordinating author and translator events
- Participating at international book fairs
- Publishing *New Writing from Ireland*
- Participating in international translation projects
- Providing information to publishers, translators, authors and other interested parties.

Detailed information on Ireland Literature Exchange and its programmes is available online at www.irelandliterature.com

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LITERATURE TRANSLATION GRANT PROGRAMME

Translation Grants

ILE's translation grants are available to international publishers who are seeking support for translations of Irish literature* and to Irish publishers for translations of foreign literature into English or Irish. ILE offers a substantial contribution towards the translator's fees.

Publishers must apply at least three months before the translation is due to be published. ILE's board of directors meets five times a year to consider applications.

The deadlines for application are available at www.irelandliterature.com

Please see the translation grant application checklist on this page for a full list of required materials.

ILE has all translation samples assessed by an independent expert. Successful applicants will be sent a formal letter of award and contracts will be posted within ten days of the board meeting. Payment of the translation grant is made to the publisher once ILE has received proof of payment to the translator and six copies of the published work, which must contain an acknowledgement of ILE's funding.

** Eligible genres: literary fiction, literary non-fiction, children's literature, poetry and drama.*

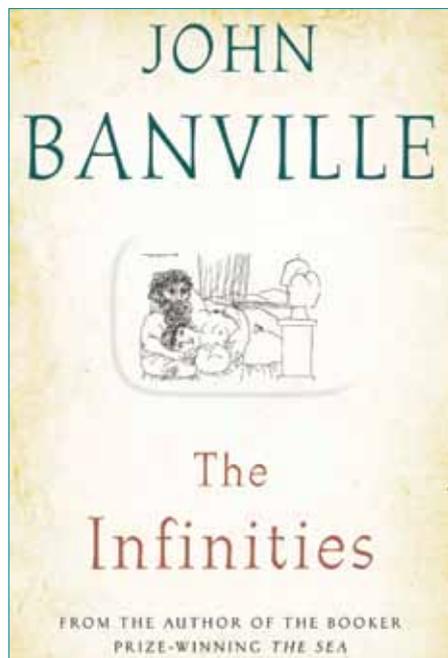
Translation Grant Application Checklist

Your application should include the following:

- Publisher's contact details
- A copy of the agreement with the translation rights holder and the contract with the translator
- Publication details: proposed date of publication, the proposed print run and page extent of the translation
- A copy of the translator's CV and a breakdown of the fee to be paid to the translator
- 2 copies of the original work and 2 copies of a translation sample consisting of 10-12 pages of prose or 6 poems.

JOHN BANVILLE

THE INFINITIES



John Banville was born in Wexford, Ireland, in 1945. He is the author of 14 previous novels including *The Sea*, which won the 2005 Man Booker Prize. He has also received a literary award from the Lannan Foundation. He lives in Dublin.

One long, languid midsummer's day, the Godleys gather at the family home of Arden to attend their father's bedside. Old Adam – husband, father and esteemed mathematician – made his name grappling with the concept of the infinite. His own time on earth seems to be running out, and his mind runs to disquieting memories.

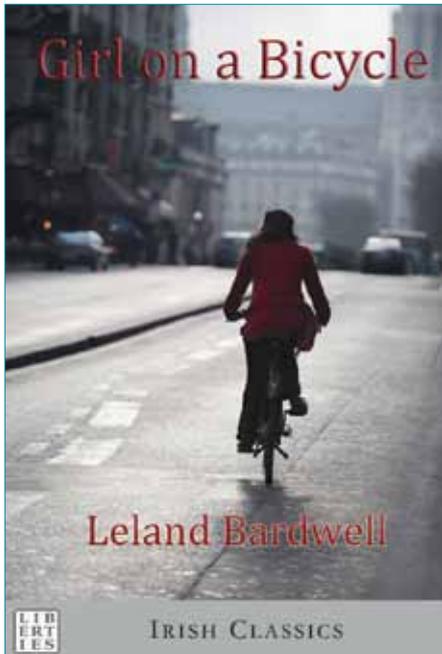
Overflowing with a bawdy humour, and a deep and refreshing clarity of insight, *The Infinities* is at once a gloriously earthy romp and a delicately poised, infinitely wise look at the terrible and wonderful plight of being human.

[Contact for rights' negotiations](#)

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LELAND BARDWELL

GIRL ON A BICYCLE



Leland Bardwell was born in India to Irish parents but grew up in Leixlip, Co. Kildare. She now lives in Co. Sligo. Bardwell has published poetry collections, novels, plays, short stories and a memoir, and won the Marten Toonder Award in 1992. She is co-founder of the literary journal *Cyphers*.

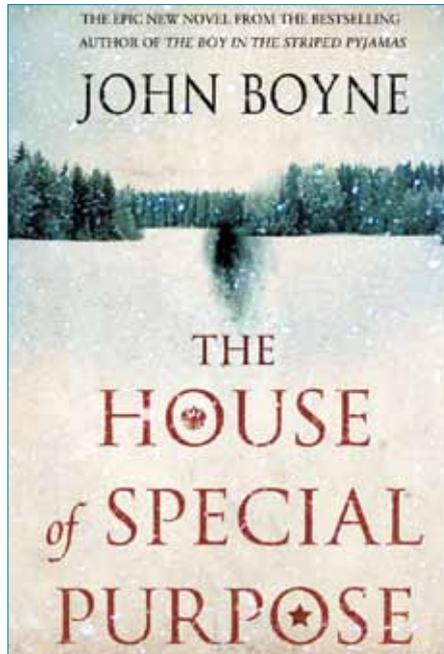
Girl on a Bicycle was Leland Bardwell's first foray into novel writing and merges the author's own life story with that of Julie De Vraie, a young, impressionable and passionate woman. Against the backdrop of the "Emergency", the chaos in Europe, the Catholic state and her own Protestant up-bringing, she searches for freedom. To be free then was to be an outcast, and she becomes imprisoned in a deep chaos of her own. Bardwell explores both the reality of being Protestant in Ireland, and what it means to be an individual caught up in the momentum of historical change.

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JOHN BOYNE

THE HOUSE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE



John Boyne was born in Dublin in 1971. The winner of two Irish Book Awards, he is the author of six novels, including the international bestseller *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, which was made into a Miramax feature film. His novels are published in 41 languages.

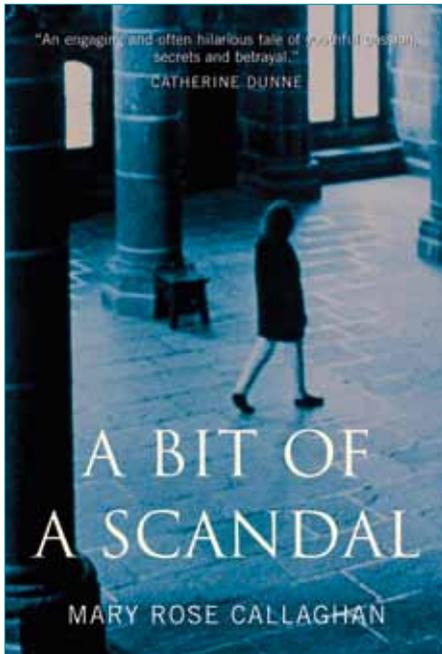
Eighty-year-old Georgy Jachmenev is haunted by his past – a past of death, suffering and scandal that will stay with him forever. Living in England with his beloved wife Zoya, Georgy prepares to make one final journey back to the Russia he once knew and loved. As Georgy remembers days gone by, we are transported to St. Petersburg in the early 20th century, to the Winter Palace of the Tsar. To a time of change, threat and bloody revolution. And as Georgy overturns the most painful stone of all, we uncover the story of the house of special purpose.

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MARY ROSE CALLAGHAN

A BIT OF A SCANDAL



Mary Rose Callaghan is the author of eight previous novels, including *Emigrant Dreams* (1996), *The Visitors' Book* (2001) and *Billy, Come Home* (2007).

Louise, a middle-aged Irish emigrant, returns to Dublin for Christmas after 30 years of living in New York, and is reminded of her youthful love affair with Peter, a Canadian monk.

‘Candid, personal, sometimes comical and thoroughly absorbing.’ *Sunday Tribune*

‘Compulsive, and utterly satisfying.’ *Irish Examiner*

‘An engaging and often hilarious tale of youthful passion, secrets and betrayal.’
Catherine Dunne

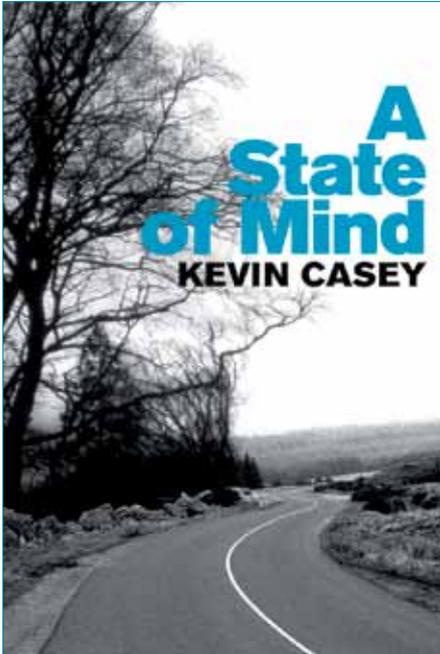
‘Emotional and touching with some real laugh-out-loud moments.’ *RTÉ Guide*

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KEVIN CASEY**A STATE OF MIND**

Cover design by Niall McCormack



Kevin Casey was born in Co. Meath in 1940 and went to Blackrock College, Dublin. Once the Abbey Theatre's youngest playwright, he is author of critically acclaimed works *The Sinner's Bell* (1968), *A Sense of Survival* (1974) and *Dreams of Revenge* (1977). This is his exciting comeback novel.

In mid-1970s rural Wicklow, John Hughes, a once-feted journalist/author with writer's block, reflects on recent events. When English author William Cromer and his German lover Ingrid move to the Old Rectory nearby, their lives are transformed and an alcohol-fuelled affair begins. Hughes puts at risk everything he has ever loved – his wife Laura, teenage daughter Rachael and the bucolic ease of their quiet corner of Ireland.

Losing his friends and mistress, John is forced to take responsibility for his actions in order to save his family and his integrity, and to find release as a writer.

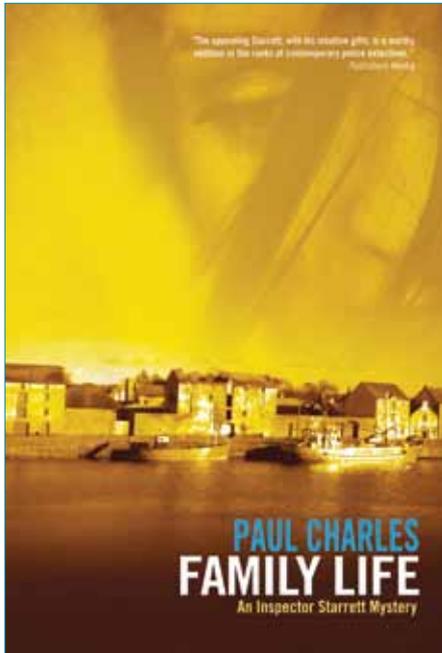
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PAUL CHARLES

FAMILY LIFE: AN INSPECTOR STARRETT MYSTERY



Paul Charles is one of Europe's best-known music promoters and agents. He is the author of nine Inspector Christy Kennedy novels, the most recent of which, *The Beautiful Sound of Silence*, was published in 2008. The first Inspector Starrett novel, *The Dust of Death*, was published in 2007.

The second in the new detective series set in the West of Ireland.

In ones and twos, the Sweeney clan gathers at the family farm to celebrate Liam Sweeney's birthday. But Inspector Starrett arrives unexpectedly, and announces that the body of a Sweeney family member has been discovered in the nearby town in circumstances that are suspicious, to say the least.

'The appealing Starrett, with his intuitive gifts, is a worthy addition to the ranks of contemporary police detectives.' *Publishers Weekly*

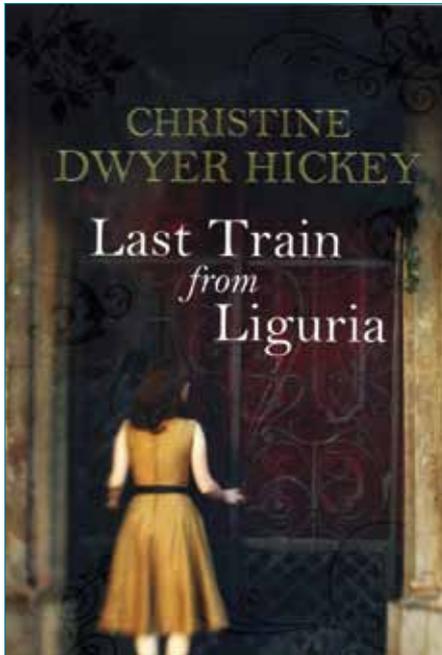
'A writer who treads in the classic footsteps of Morse and Maigret.' *Guardian*

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CHRISTINE DWYER HICKEY

LAST TRAIN FROM LIGURIA



Christine Dwyer Hickey is a novelist and short story writer. She has won awards in the Listowel Writers' Week short story competition and the *Observer*/Penguin short story competition. Her novel *Tatty* was long-listed for the Orange Prize and short listed for the Hughes & Hughes Irish Novel of the Year Award.

A sweeping tale of consequences set in the 1930s. Bella lives a cosseted life in London, keeping house for her father and minding her own fragile health. When her father arranges for her to work as a governess in Italy, she is initially terrified. But as she boards the train for the Italian port of Bordighera, her fear soon gives way to liberation.

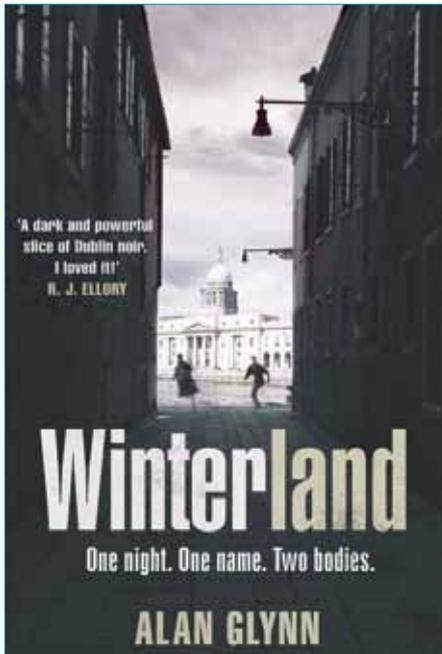
But the atmosphere in Italy is changing. As fascist laws take effect, the Lami family find themselves in danger and Bella, Edward and Alec must escape the threats mounting around them, and face a rapidly changing world.

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ALAN GLYNN

WINTERLAND



Alan Glynn was born in 1960 and lives in Dublin. He studied English literature at Trinity College, Dublin. His first novel, *The Dark Fields*, is currently being produced as a feature film by Universal Pictures.

Winterland is a fast-paced, literary thriller set in contemporary Dublin. The worlds of business, politics and crime collide when two men with the same name, from the same family, die on the same night – one death is a gangland murder, the other, apparently, a road accident. Was it a coincidence? Officially – but when a family member, Gina Rafferty, starts asking questions, this notion quickly unravels.

Told repeatedly that she should stop asking questions, Gina becomes determined to find out the truth – but in doing so she embarks on a path that will push certain powerful people to their limits...

[Contact for rights' negotiations](#)

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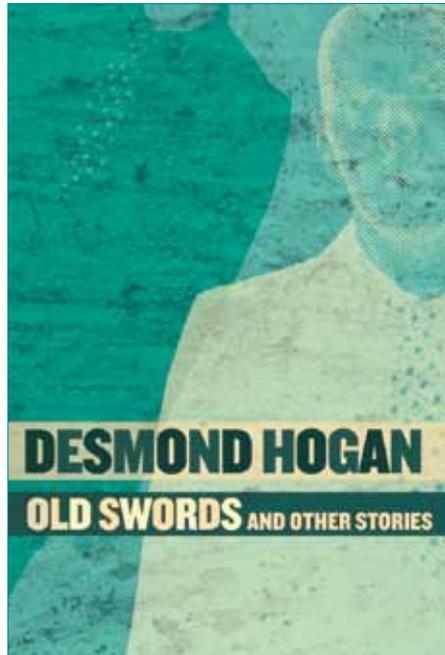
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DESMOND HOGAN

OLD SWORDS AND OTHER STORIES

Desmond Hogan was born in Galway. He was awarded the John Llewlyn Thys Memorial Prize in 1981 and a DAAD Fellowship in Berlin in 1991. In 1989 he was writer-in-residence at the University of Alabama, and in 1997 he taught at the University of California, San Diego.

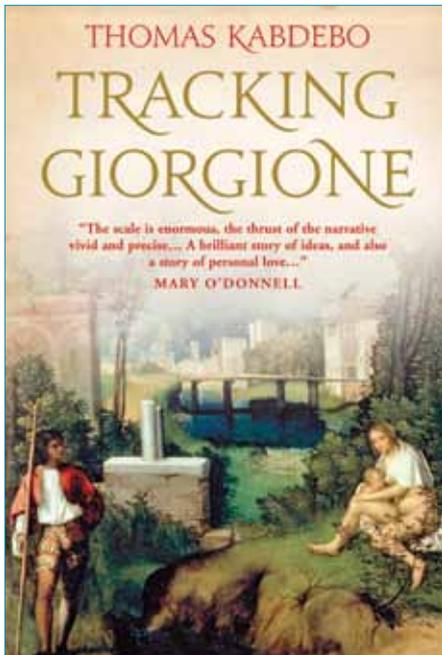
These 11 stories by Desmond Hogan collect newly minted shards of experience focused on the lives of the dreamers and marginalised who populate his imagined worlds. They range in time and place from France, Germany and Italy in the 19th century to Ireland of the 1950s and the present day. Their concerns are fragility and identity expressed through the outer semblances of dress and deportment, and inner realities of involuntary memory and the retrieval of shared pasts. This bricolage of melded history and a fragmented modernism renders truth-to-experience like no other contemporary voice.

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THOMAS KABDEBO

TRACKING GIORGIONE: A NOVEL



Thomas Kabdebo is the author of 40 books, including the bestselling *Dictionary of Dictionaries*. He has received numerous literary and other awards, including the Hungarian Order of Merit, the Péterfy Life Achievement Award, the Füst Grand Prix for translation, and the International Poetry Prize.

In this remarkable novel by an acclaimed Hungarian author, a British art historian of Italian extraction conducts from London a long pursuit of lost paintings by Giorgione, one of the most seminal, intriguing and mysterious figures in European painting.

‘The scale is enormous, the thrust of the narrative vivid and precise... A brilliant story of ideas, and also a story of personal love...’ Mary O’Donnell

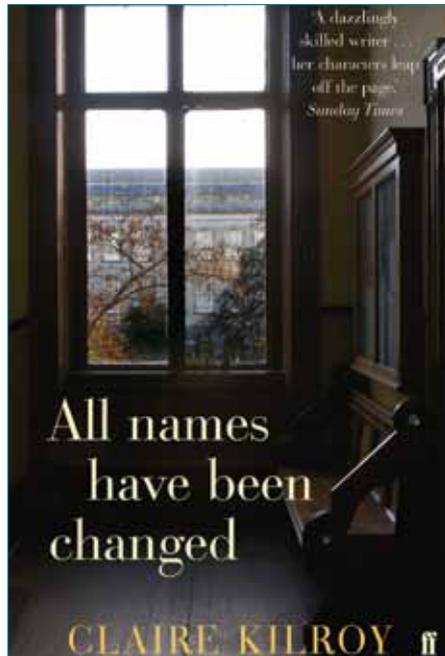
‘An intriguing and unusual tale... an absorbing read.’ *Historical Novels Review*

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CLAIRE KILROY

ALL NAMES HAVE BEEN CHANGED



Claire Kilroy's debut novel, *All Summer*, was awarded the 2004 Rooney Prize for Irish Literature. Her second novel, *Tenderwire*, was published to great acclaim in 2006 and was shortlisted for, among other awards, the Hughes & Hughes Irish Novel of the Year. Educated at Trinity College, she lives in Dublin.

All Names Have Been Changed is set in Dublin in the mid-1980s – a city in the grip of recession and a heroin epidemic. Narrated by Declan, the only man in a tight-knit writing group at Trinity College, it tells of their fascination with the formidably talented but troubled writer Glynn, and the darkly exhilarating journey this leads them on.

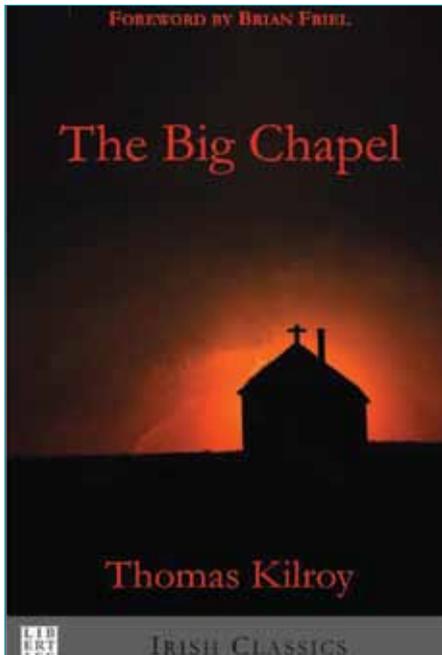
Brilliantly exploring the shifting group dynamic, and offering a unique insight into the pursuit of the creative life – with all its energy and demons, its moments of artistic elation and defeat – this is a novel of considerable verve.

[Contact for rights' negotiations](#)

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THOMAS KILROY

THE BIG CHAPEL



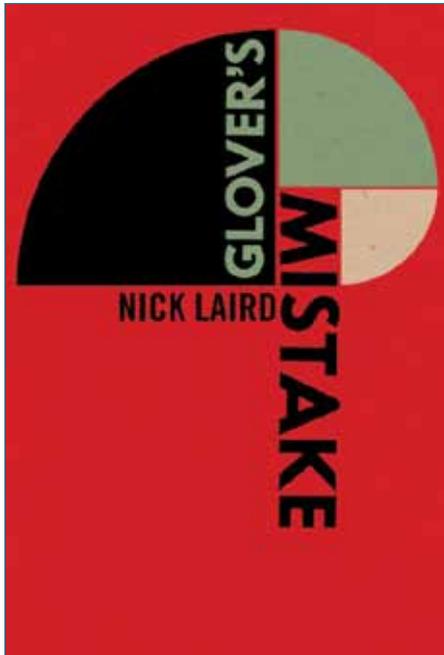
Thomas Kilroy was born in Kilkenny in 1943. He was play editor at the Abbey Theatre in 1977, director of Field Day Theatre Company in 1988, and Professor of English at UCG. He is a member of the Royal Society of Literature, the Irish Academy of Letters and Aosdána.

Basing his work on a notorious clerical scandal of Victorian Ireland, Kilroy has written a visceral portrayal of a rural town torn apart by religious violence. He has captured the insularity of a small town and the consequences of neighbours becoming enemies.

The story is told from the point of view of Nicholas and Marcus Scully, two brothers who align themselves with the town's suspended priest. It also features the journal entries of the local landlord, Horace Percy Butler.

As the story progresses, we also learn of the love between Marcus and Emerine, adopted by his family as a child.

[Contact for rights' negotiations](#)

NICK LAIRD**GLOVER'S MISTAKE**

Nick Laird was born in Northern Ireland in 1975, and studied at Cambridge and Harvard. He is the author of two collections of poetry and the acclaimed novel *Utterly Monkey*. He currently teaches creative writing at Columbia University in New York.

David Pinner is not content. A 35-year-old English teacher, he isn't a writer or a boyfriend or a father. He isn't even a very good son. His new flatmate is James Glover, a barman whose life hasn't quite worked out either. Into their lives comes Ruth, an American artist who taught David when he was an undergraduate. Ruth meets Glover on David's doorstep and a relationship begins. David puts himself in the middle, and his interest in the couple grows obsessive, and eventually destructive.

Glover's Mistake is an exploration into friendship, jealousy and the mind of a modern-day Iago.

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JOHN MACKENNA

THE SPACE BETWEEN US



John MacKenna was born in 1952 in Castledermot, Co. Kildare. His other books include: *The Fallen and Other Stories* (1992), which won the *Irish Times* First Fiction Award; *A Year of Our Lives* (1995); and *The Last Fine Summer* (1998).

The story of an Irish architect who loses his wife, Beth, in a car accident and is left to bring up his young daughter alone. Immediately after Beth's death, his emotions lurch from relief because he no longer has to pretend to be interested in a relationship that had been falling apart for some time, to guilt because he did not have the courage to talk to Beth before her death.

As time goes by, father and daughter grow closer. The reader gradually realises that this relationship is not as it should be. A disturbing and shocking story, deftly told.

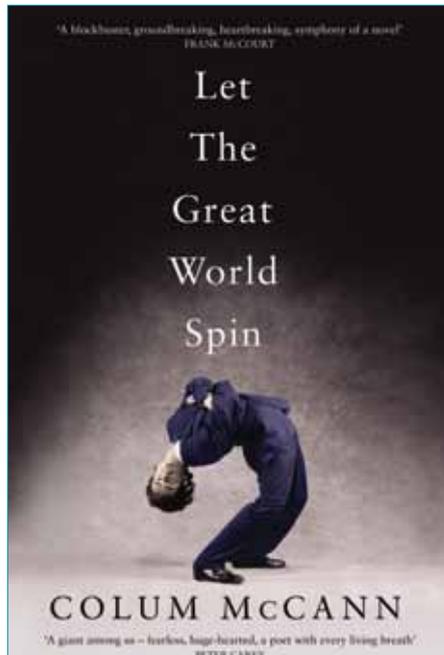
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COLUM McCANN

LET THE GREAT WORLD SPIN

© Martin Barraud/Getty Images



Colum McCann, originally from Dublin, is the author of five novels and two collections of stories. He has won numerous international literary awards. His novels *Zoli*, *Dancer* and *This Side of Brightness* were international bestsellers, and his fiction has been published in 30 languages. He lives in New York.

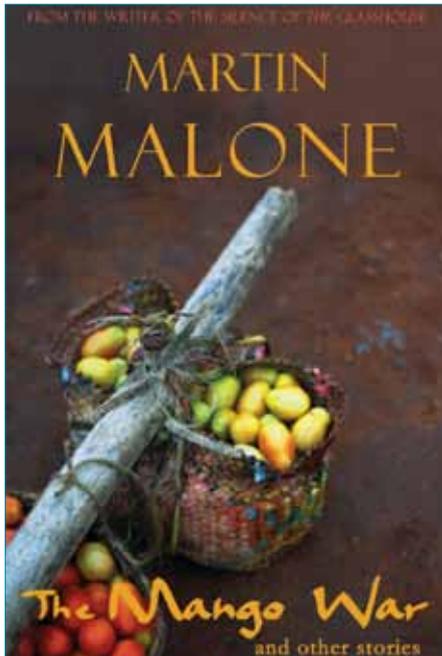
New York, August 1974. Between the newly built Twin Towers a man is twirling through the air. Far below, the lives of complete strangers spin towards each other: Corrigan, a radical Irish monk working in the Bronx; Claire, a delicate Upper East Side housewife reeling from the death of her son; Lara, a drug-addled young artist; Gloria, solid and proud despite decades of hardship; Tillie, a hooker who used to dream of a better life; and Jazzlyn, her beautiful daughter. In the shadow of one reckless and beautiful act, these disparate lives will collide, and be transformed for ever.

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MARTIN MALONE

THE MANGO WAR AND OTHER STORIES



Martin Malone has won the Frances McManus Award and was twice shortlisted for the Hennessey Award. He has published four best-selling novels: *US* (2000), *After Kafra* (2001), *The Broken Cedar* (2003), which was longlisted for the IMPAC Award in 2005, and *The Silence of the Glasshouse* (2008).

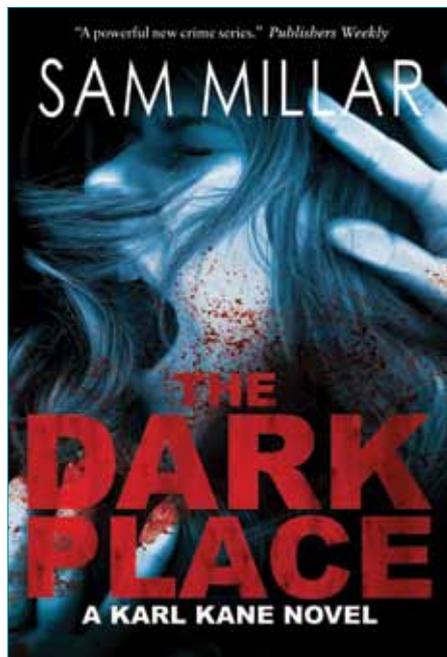
Acutely observed, and often comic, Martin Malone's stories chart the hidden and darker currents beneath everyday, seemingly ordinary, family life. An Irish soldier who brings his Middle East tour of duty home with him, a car park attendant who ponders all that he witnesses, two sisters who have always shared everything, and a father and son trapped in a tragic aftermath are some of the deftly realised characters who memorably people these powerful tales of love, loss and betrayal. Cleanly written and displaying a true gift for dialogue, *The Mango War and Other Stories* is a collection to reckon with.

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SAM MILLAR

THE DARK PLACE: A KARL KANE NOVEL



Sam Millar is a winner of the Brian Moore Short Story Award, among others. Brandon has also published his three other crime novels, *The Redemption Factory* (2005), *The Darkness of Bones* (2006), and *Bloodstorm* (2008); all three will be published in France by Fayard.

Young homeless women and drug addicts are being abducted before being brutally mutilated and murdered, and a city is held in the grip of unspeakable terror. The police are unable – or unwilling – to apprehend the elusive serial killer and corrupt politicians turn a seemingly blind and almost approving eye to the catalogue of murders.

From the nail-biting beginning to the explosive ending, Karl Kane's nightmarish journey forces upon him a decision that changes his life forever, and forces him to look into the abyss of no return.

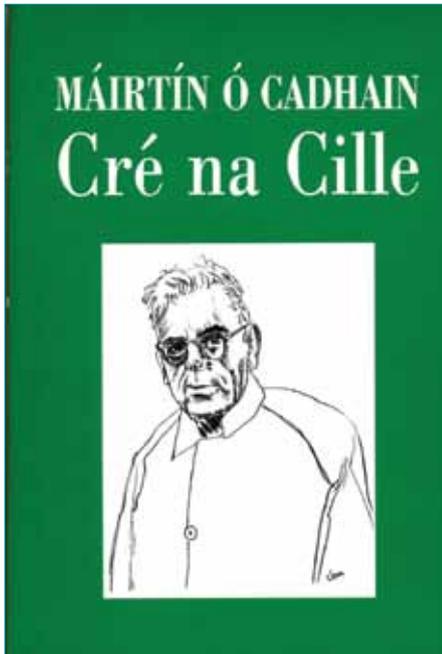
‘A powerful new crime series from Irish author Millar.’ *Publishers Weekly*

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MÁIRTÍN Ó CADHAIN

CRÉ NA CILLE



Máirtín Ó Cadhain (1906–70) was a man of many parts – novelist, scholar, republican, community activist and polemicist. He wrote three novels, several collections of short stories and numerous pamphlets. A pioneer of Irish-language modernism, Ó Cadhain’s contribution to the development of writing in the Irish language has been profound.

Cré na Cille, translated as *Graveyard Clay*, is considered to be the most important literary work ever written in the Irish language. It has been dramatised, serialised and made into an award-winning film in 2007, but the book itself has never been translated into English.

Cló Iar-Chonnachta, Ireland’s leading Irish-language publisher, has recently purchased the rights to *Cré na Cille* and now has sample chapters in English available.

Recognised almost immediately as a classic when published in the 1940s, the book is set among the dead in a Connemara graveyard in the West of Ireland.

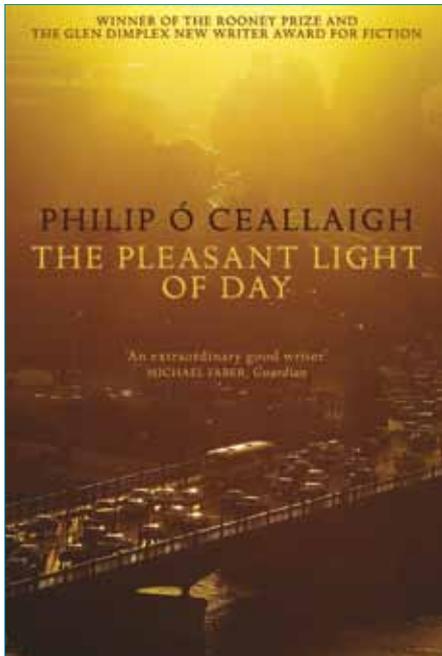
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PHILIP Ó CEALLAIGH

THE PLEASANT LIGHT OF DAY

Panos Pictures



Philip Ó Ceallaigh, a native of Co. Waterford, currently lives in Bucharest. His first collection of stories, *Notes from a Turkish Whorehouse*, won the Glen Dimplex New Writers Award for fiction and was shortlisted for the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award. Ó Ceallaigh won the Rooney Prize in 2006.

Philip Ó Ceallaigh's first collection of stories, *Notes from a Turkish Whorehouse*, established him as one of the most vital and distinctive new voices in fiction. *The Pleasant Light of Day* confirms his enormous talent and presses brilliantly into new territory. Whether he is imagining a father and son walking the streets of Cairo or concocting a hilarious parody of a certain wildly popular inspirational writer from Brazil, Philip Ó Ceallaigh is a writer who demands to be read.

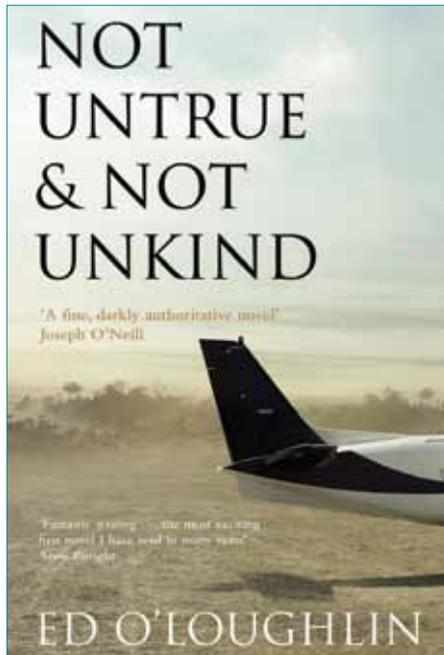
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ED O'LOUGHLIN

NOT UNTRUE AND NOT UNKIND

Jonathan Kirchen / Louise Murray



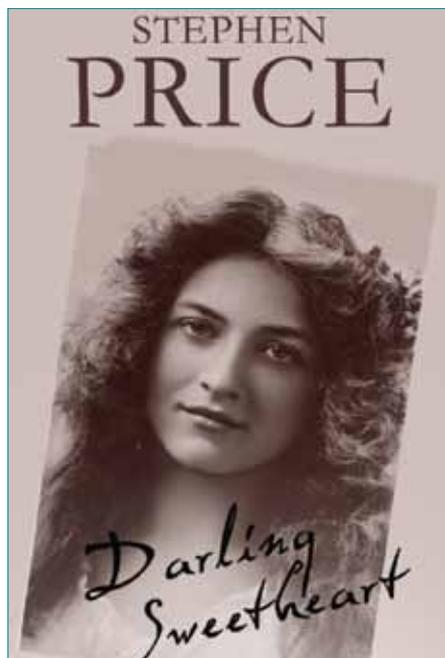
Ed O'Loughlin was born in Toronto and raised in Ireland. He reported from Africa for the *Irish Times* and other papers, and was Middle East correspondent for the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age of Melbourne*. *Not Untrue and Not Unkind* is his first novel.

In Dublin, a newspaper editor called Cartwright is found dead. One of his colleagues, Owen Simmons, discovers a dossier on Cartwright's desk. And in the dossier Owen finds a photograph, which brings him back to a dusty road in Africa and to the woman he once loved.

Not Untrue and Not Unkind is Owen's story – a gripping story of friendship, rivalry and betrayal amongst a group of journalists and photographers covering Africa's wars. It is an astonishingly powerful and accomplished debut that immediately establishes Ed O'Loughlin as a mature master of the novel form.

[Contact for rights' negotiations](#)

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STEPHEN PRICE**DARLING SWEETHEART**

Stephen Price worked as a producer for nearly two decades at RTÉ and the BBC and now writes for the *Sunday Times* and the *Sunday Business Post*. He is the author of two previous novels, *Monkey Man* (2005) and *The Christmas Club* (2006), also published by New Island.

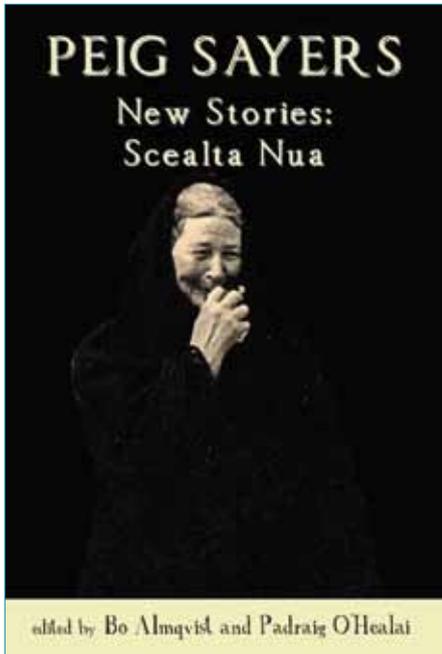
A witty and satirical novel set in the glamorous world of film-making. Annalise Palatine is getting her big break in a Hollywood blockbuster opposite film star Harry Emerson. However, it immediately becomes apparent that Emerson wants more from her than just her screen presence, the director is a lecherous Swede and, worst of all, she can't get under the skin of her part. Manipulated by forces she hasn't reckoned with, she retreats into her unhappy past, plagued by childhood memories and feelings for her dead father. But, sometimes, the ghosts of the past can take on very strange forms indeed...

[Contact for rights' negotiations](#)

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PEIG SAYERS (Edited and translated by BO ALMQVIST and PÁDRAIG Ó HEALAÍ)

PEIG SAYERS: NEW STORIES/SCÉALTA NUA



Bo Almqvist, Emeritus Professor of UCD, has dedicated his career to the study of Peig and Irish folklore. Together with Pádraig Ó Healaí of NUI Galway, he has edited *Bealoideas: The Journal of the Folklore Society of Ireland*. Pádraig Ó Healaí has also edited *Téada Dúchais* (2002).

Peig Sayers' autobiography, *Peig*, is well-known to generations of Irish school-goers and was compulsory reading for second-level students of Irish. Severely 'edited' by the cultural powers that formed and built the new Irish state, the book's tales of poverty and hardship painted a bleak picture of Peig and her life.

However, in these previously unpublished and once-censored stories, a new, earthier, funnier and more dramatic storyteller emerges. Based on RTÉ, UCD and BBC archives, the book includes CDs with archived recordings of Peig telling these stories, and is published in a dual-language edition.

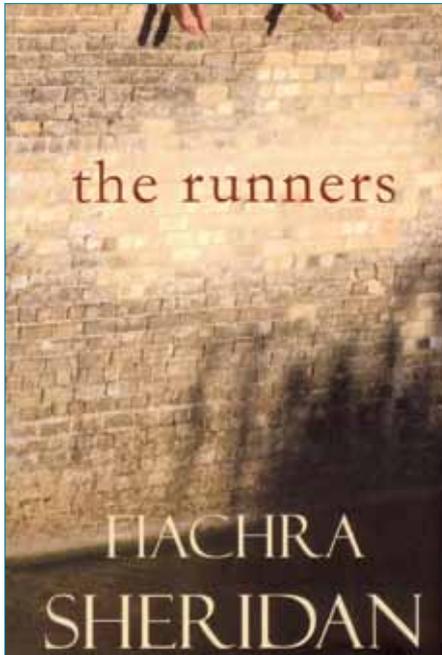
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FIACHRA SHERIDAN

THE RUNNERS

Photo © David Gibson / Trevillion Images



Fiachra Sheridan was born in Dublin in 1974. He grew up in Ballybough, in Dublin's north inner city, where he is now a maths teacher. He is married to Denise and has one child, Xabi. *The Runners* is his first novel.

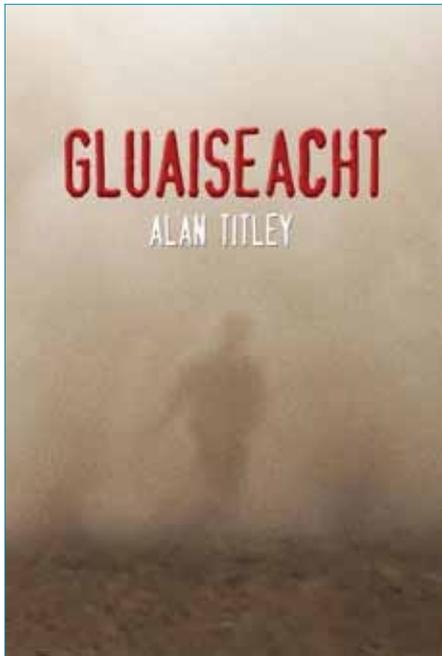
This remarkable debut novel follows the lives of Bobby and his best friend Jay, two lively 13-year-olds growing up in inner-city Dublin in the 1980s. When Bobby isn't dreaming of playing football for Dublin or winning boxing medals, he is racing through the city streets with Jay. It's not long, however, before a more adult world begins to cast a shadow on the boys' adventures. Sheridan skilfully explores the fragility of innocence in this exhilarating story of friendship and vulnerability.

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ALAN TITLEY

GLUAISEACHT



Alan Titley is the author of four novels, three collections of stories, plays for stage and radio, as well as television scripts. He has won many Oireachtas prizes and international literary awards, and his works have been widely translated. He is Professor of Modern Irish at University College Cork.

Scéal coscrach cumhachtach ógánaigh a thosaíonn i ndúiche atá faoi bhagairt cogaidh san Afraic agus a chríochnaíonn ar shráideanna dofháilteacha thuaisceart na hEorpa. Scéal a bhfuil an t-uafás agus an daonnacht taobh le taobh ann agus a théann go croí cheist na hinimirce nua-aimseartha.

A powerful and shocking story of a youth that begins in a part of Africa under threat of war and ends on the unwelcoming streets of northern Europe. Horror and humanity are found side-by-side in this tale which goes to the very heart of the problem of immigration today.

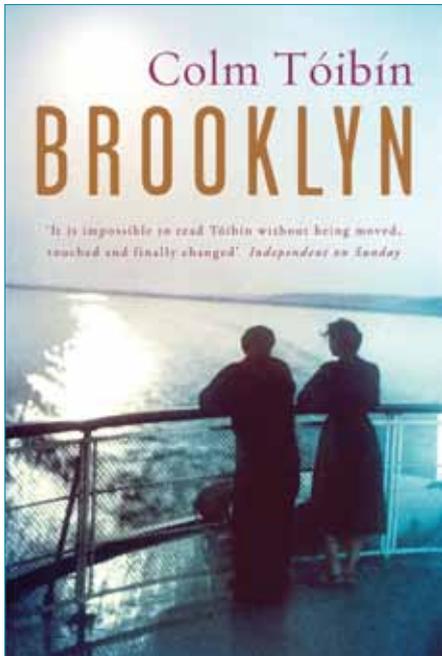
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COLM TÓIBÍN

BROOKLYN

© Getty Images



Colm Tóibín was born in Ireland in 1955. He is the author of five other novels, including *The Blackwater Lightship* and *The Master*, both of which were shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize. He has also written a collection of stories, *Mothers and Sons*.

Unable to find work, young Eilis Lacey is forced to leave her family in the South East of Ireland and emigrate to 1950s Brooklyn. Homesick and alone, she buries the pain of departure under the rhythms of her new life, and eventually even falls in love. Then unexpected news forces her to return to Ireland, not to the constrictions of her old life but to new possibilities, and Eilis finds herself faced with an impossible choice: between freedom and happiness in the land where she belongs and the promises she must keep on the far side of the ocean.

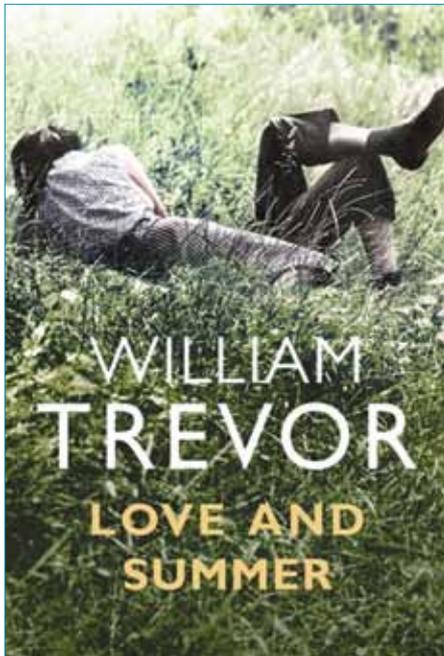
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WILLIAM TREVOR

LOVE AND SUMMER

Ferdinando Scianna/Magnum Photos



William Trevor is the author of multiple novels, short stories, non-fiction and drama, including *The Story of Lucy Gault* and *Felicia's Journey*. Trevor is the winner of numerous prizes, including the Whitbread Book of the Year Award. In 2002, he was knighted for services to literature.

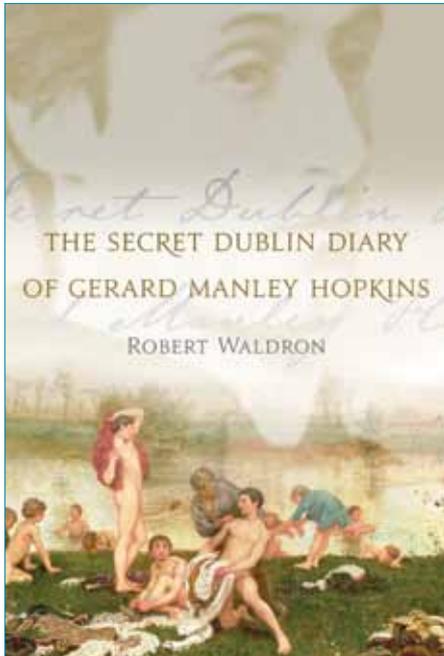
It's summer and nothing much is happening in Rathmoye. So it doesn't go unnoticed when a dark-haired stranger, Florian, appears on his bicycle and begins photographing the mourners at Mrs Connulty's funeral. Out in the country, a farmer lives with the knowledge that he was responsible for the deaths of his wife and baby. Ellie, the young girl who works for him, falls in love with Florian, and though he plans to leave Ireland, a dangerously reckless attachment develops between them. Trevor masterfully evokes the passions and frustrations felt by a small Irish town during one long summer.

[Contact for rights' negotiations](#)

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www.ila-agency.co.uk / ila@ila-agency.co.uk / + 44 20 7379 6611

ROBERT WALDRON

THE SECRET DUBLIN DIARY OF GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS: A NOVELLA



Robert Waldron is the author of six books, including *Thomas Merton in Search of His Soul*, which is required reading at several universities. He lives in Boston, where he has taught at Boston Latin School for 33 years.

A bold exploration in fiction of the years that one of England's foremost Victorian poets spent in Ireland, of his torments, his ecstasies, his fears and his loves.

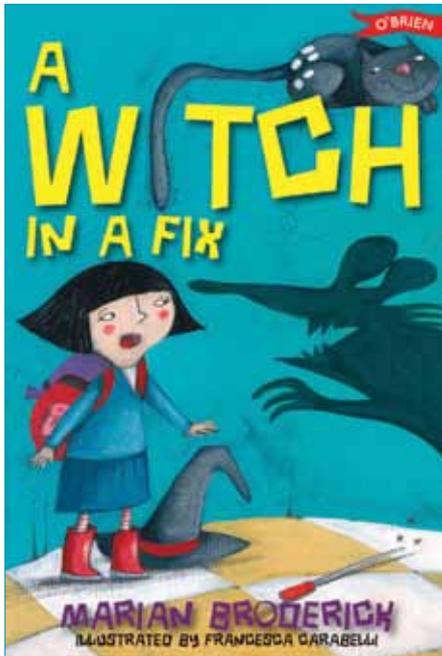
The last sonnets of Gerard Manley Hopkins, fraught as they are with despair, have long intrigued readers and critics alike. In this fascinating and challenging novella, we discover that the poet's inner agony is the result of his homosexuality, which he was compelled to hide from his fellow Jesuits. This is the story of a man who loves greatly, but who must always dissemble because of the life he has chosen.

[Contact for rights' negotiations](#)

Steve MacDonogh, Brandon/Mount Eagle Publications, Cooleen, Dingle, Co. Kerry, Ireland.
www.brandonbooks.com / mesmac@eircom.net / +353 66 915 1463

MARIAN BRODERICK

A WITCH IN A FIX



Marian Broderick is the author of two other books about the magical adventures of Anna the Witch – *The Witch Apprentice* and *The Witch in the Woods*. She has also written *The Lost Fairy* in the O'Brien Press *Flyer* series and, for adults, the acclaimed *Wild Irish Women*.

A little book of mischief and magic...

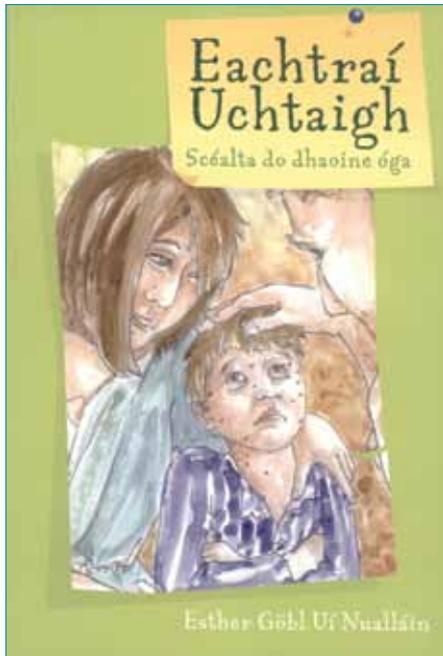
Anna Kelly's science teacher really gets on her nerves – but is that a good enough reason to turn her into a giant rat? With a big, angry rat on the loose, Anna soon realises she's made a mistake! How will she turn it back into her teacher? Anna can't admit what she's done, so no one can help her with her big, furry problem – or can they? Sometimes even witches need a little help from their friends! The third in a magical new series following the adventures of Anna, witch apprentice!

[Contact for rights' negotiations](#)

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ESTHER GÖBL UÍ NUALLÁIN

EACHTRAÍ UCHTAIGH: SCÉALTA DO DHAOINE ÓGA



Esther Göbl Uí Nualláin is a teacher in Meánscoil Mhuire, Longford. She is also national chairperson of the Irish-speaking families' organisation, Comhluadar. *Eachtraí Uchtaigh* is her first published collection.

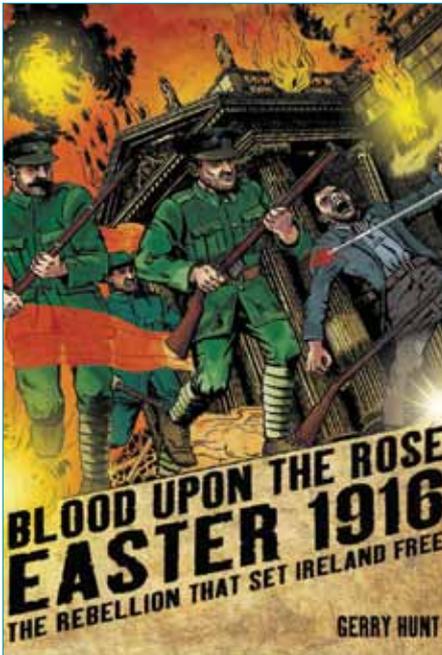
Stories of courage, hope and excitement from a burgeoning new writer. Göbl Uí Nualláin's canvas is the imaginative innocence and celebratory magic of childhood and she contends with many of the momentous, yet simple events that are the hallmarks in children's lives. Loss of a tooth, confronting bullying, chickenpox and much else that unerringly visits itself upon the child are colours from her palate – all eminently suited to the 7 to 9-year-old reader. These stories show great writing skill and a remarkable cognisance of the developmental and emotional needs of children.

[Contact for rights' negotiations](#)

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www.moinin.ie / moinin@eircom.net / +353 65 7077256

GERRY HUNT

BLOOD UPON THE ROSE, EASTER 1916



Gerry Hunt worked as an architect before he began drawing political cartoons. From this, he moved on to drawing entire comics. The founder of Dublin Comics, he has since published *In Dublin City* and *The Streets of Dublin*.

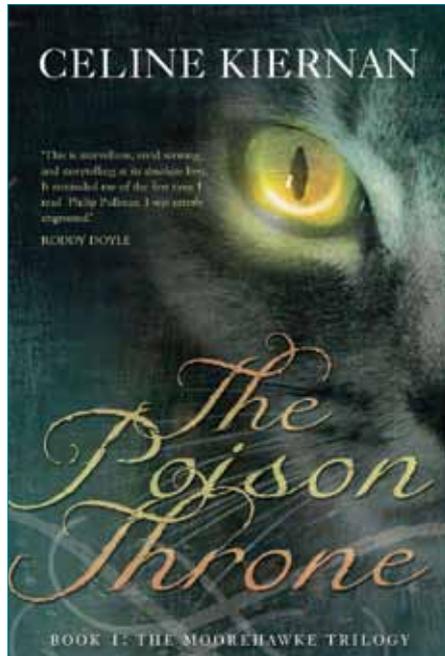
An incredible new graphic novel which brings to life the 1916 Easter Rising, the most significant rebellion Ireland had ever seen. Though a military failure, it set Ireland on the road to freedom from Britain. *Blood upon the Rose* tells the story of the rebellion from the early planning to the final executions which changed the tide of public opinion, and includes the tragic romance between Joseph Plunkett and Grace Gifford. With beautiful artwork and lively text, *Blood upon the Rose* is an authentic reconstruction of the 1916 Rising and brings this important event in Irish history to life.

[Contact for rights' negotiations](#)

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CELINE KIERNAN

THE POISON THRONE, BOOK 1: THE MOOREHAWKE TRILOGY



Born in Dublin, Celine Kiernan currently lives with her family in Co. Cavan. Celine's debut novel, *The Poison Throne*, first book of the Moorehawke Trilogy and published by the O'Brien Press in 2008, has captured the imagination of readers everywhere and has received resounding praise from international publishers.

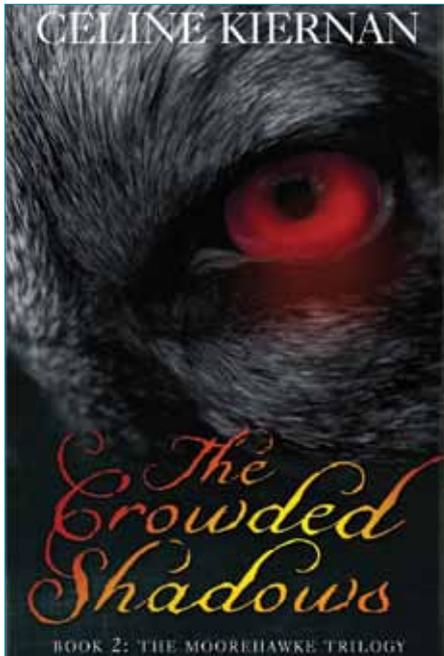
Fifteen-year-old Wynter Moorehawke returns home after five years in the bleak Northlands to find her once peaceful home in turmoil. Wynter is forced to make a terrible choice: stay and bow to the king's will, or abandon her ailing father and join her friend Razi and the mysterious Christopher in their efforts to restore the fragile kingdom to its former stability. But this changed kingdom is a dangerous place, and the trio risk assassination, torture or imprisonment... Set in a fantastical medieval Europe, *The Poison Throne* is a winning combination of imagination, powerful storytelling and magnificent characters.

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CELINE KIERNAN

THE CROWDED SHADOWS, BOOK 2: THE MOOREHAWKE TRILOGY



Celine Kiernan's debut novel, *The Poison Throne*, was published by the O'Brien Press in 2008. Since its release, it has captured the imagination of readers everywhere. *The Crowded Shadows* continues the tale of Wynter Moorehawke, and Celine is currently working on the final instalment of the trilogy.

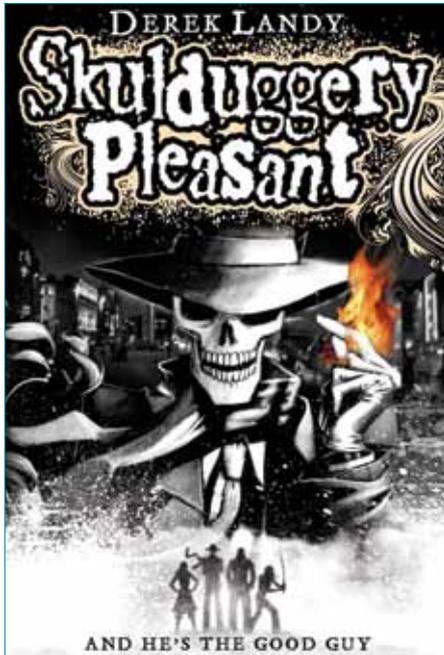
Wynter Moorehawke travels alone and unprotected in bandit-infested forests, searching for the rebel Prince Alberon. But it seems that every tyrant and zealot in the land is also looking for him. Wynter is overjoyed when friends Razi and Christopher re-appear but when the three are confronted with the infamous and dangerous wolves, it is to the Merron that they must turn for sanctuary. But the Merron have sided with their mortal enemy, Marguerite Shirken – can they be trusted? What is behind these strange alliances and what is Alberon's role in it all? The eagerly-anticipated second instalment in the Moorehawke Trilogy.

[Contact for rights' negotiations](#)

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DEREK LANDY

SKULDUGGERY PLEASANT



Before writing his children's story about a sharply dressed skeleton detective, Derek Landy wrote the screenplays for a zombie movie and a murderous thriller in which everybody dies. *Skulduggery Pleasant* won the Red House Children's Prize 2008. Books one to three are now out in the U.K. and U.S.A. with books four to six coming soon...

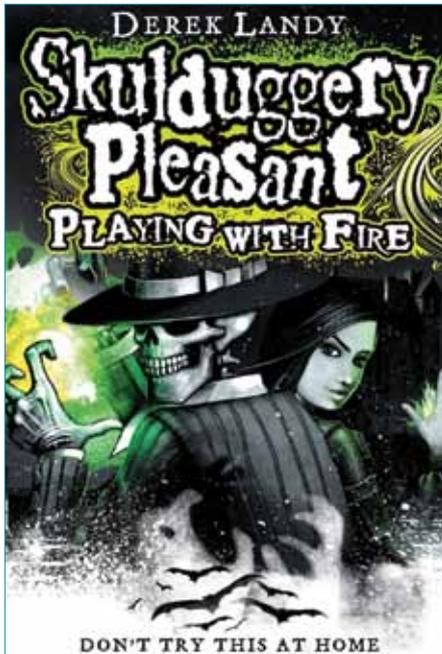
Stephanie's uncle is a writer of horror fiction. But when he dies, Stephanie learns that while he may have written horror, it certainly wasn't fiction. Pursued by evil Nefarian Serpine, Stephanie finds help from an unusual source – Skulduggery Pleasant, the wisecracking skeleton of a dead wizard.

[Contact for rights' negotiations](#)

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DEREK LANDY

SKULDUGGERY PLEASANT: PLAYING WITH FIRE



Skulduggery Pleasant won the Red House Children's Book Award and a host of regional prizes in the U.K. and the U.S.A. It was also recommended in the first Richard & Judy Children's Book Club and selected for Oprah's first Children's Book Club. The film rights are with Warner Bros.

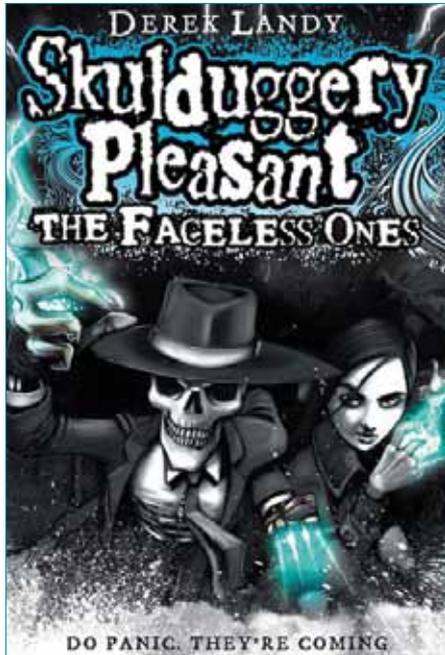
With Serpine dead, the world is safe – at least, until the notorious Baron Vengeous escapes from prison and dead bodies and vampires start showing up all over Ireland. The daring detective duo's biggest challenge yet.

[Contact for rights' negotiations](#)

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DEREK LANDY

SKULDUGGERY PLEASANT: THE FACELESS ONES



Derek Landy was born in Lusk, Co. Dublin, in 1973. He is a screenwriter and author. He has written two screenplays and has published three books in the Skulduggery Pleasant series, with books four to six expected soon.

The third bone-breaking, belly-busting adventure in the Skulduggery Pleasant series. If you've read the previous Skulduggery books then you know what the Faceless Ones are – and if you know what they are, then you can probably take a wild guess that things in this book are going to get AWFULLY sticky for our skeletal hero and his young sidekick.

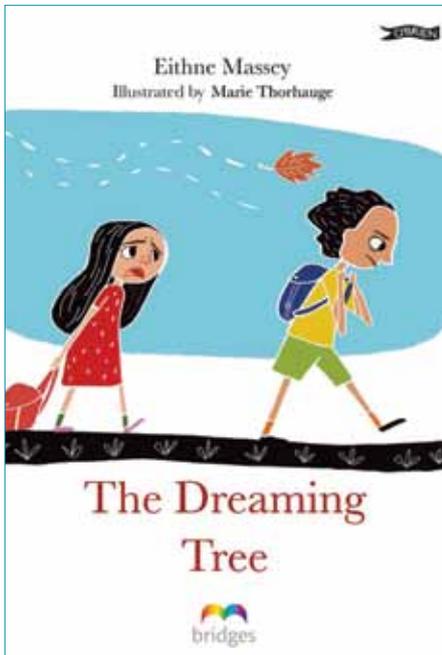
But if you haven't read the previous Skulduggery books, then what are you doing reading this? Go and read them right now, so that you know what all that stuff in the previous paragraph was about.

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EITHNE MASSEY

THE DREAMING TREE (BRIDGES SERIES)



Eithne Massey is the author of children's novel *The Secret of Kells*. She has worked with the Arts Council and works as a librarian in Dublin and in Brittany, France. Her latest book for children, *Best-Loved Irish Legends*, will be published by the O'Brien Press in 2009.

Bridges is an exciting new series of multi-cultural and inter-cultural books for children. The unique illustrative approach and engaging stories make *Bridges* ideal for different reading abilities.

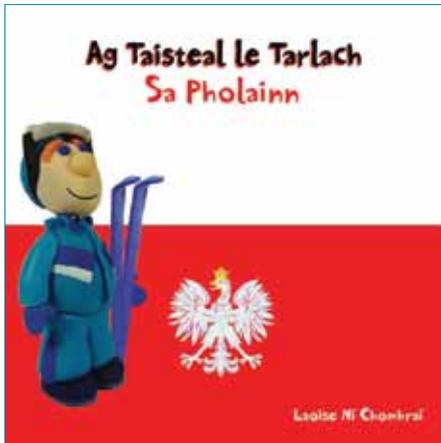
The Dreaming Tree tells the story of Roberto, who has moved to Ireland with his family. Back home in Brazil, Roberto *loved* playing football! Now he lives in Ireland, and he'd really like to have a game with the boys in the park, but he's too shy. But then his granny reminds him of the Brazilian story of the dreaming tree – maybe it can help!

[Contact for rights' negotiations](#)

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LAOISE NÍ CHOMHRAÍ

AG TAISTEAL LE TARLACH SA PHOLAINN



Laoise Ní Chomhraí travelled and worked in different countries for five years. She decided to use her experience to write books for children so that they could learn about foreign countries. The first book she wrote, about Japan, is called *Ag Taisteal le Tarlach sa tSeapáin*.

Ar a shlí chun na Polainne atá Tarlach an uair seo in éineacht lena chara, Adaś. Caithfidh Tarlach dul i ngleic leis an bPolainnis freisin ar ndóigh agus le bia na Polainne, agus feiceann sé go bhfuil neart cosúlachtaí agus éagsúlachtaí idir Éire agus an Pholainn.

In this second book in the series we join Tarlach on his way to Poland with his friend, Adaś. Tarlach has to get to grips with both the language and the food, which proves a source of amusement to his Polish friends! A beautiful travel book for the 10 to 12-year-old age group.

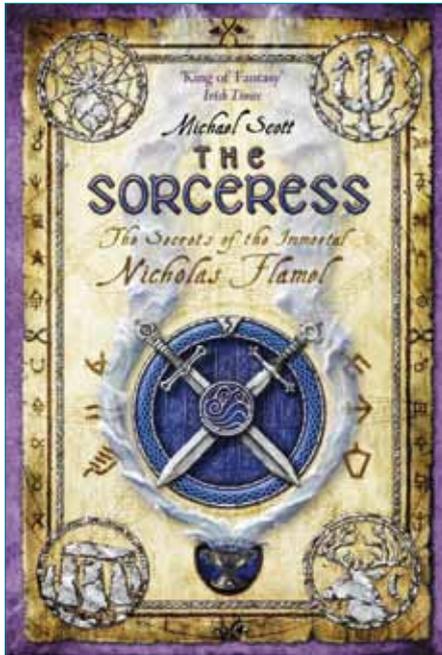
[Contact for rights' negotiations](#)

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MICHAEL SCOTT

THE SORCESS

© Michael Wagner, 2009



An authority on mythology and folklore, Michael Scott is one of Ireland's most successful authors. A master of fantasy, science fiction, horror and folklore, he has been hailed by the *Irish Times* as 'the King of Fantasy in these isles'.

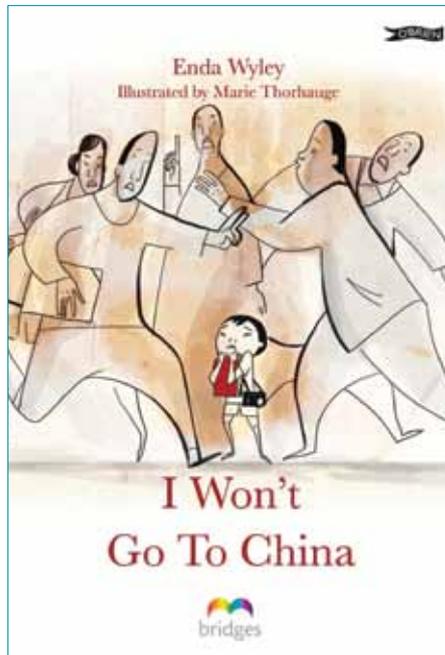
This is the third book in the best-selling contemporary fantasy series by Michael Scott, internationally renowned for *The Alchemyst* and *The Magician*. *The Sorceress* continues the story of twins Josh and Sophie, normal teenagers who one day discover a world of magic, evil and mystery and meet the one man who can explain it all and offer them protection – Nicholas Flamel. The Dark Elders will stop at nothing to get their hands on a magical book, The Codex, which holds the secret to immortality and incredible powers. All that stands between them and ultimate knowledge is Nicholas and the twins.

[Contact for rights' negotiations](#)

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ENDA WYLEY

I WON'T GO TO CHINA (BRIDGES SERIES)



Enda Wyley is an author and poet and has had several books published including *Socrates in the Garden* and *Poems for Breakfast*. Her book for young readers, *Boo and Bear*, is in the O'Brien Press *Panda Cubs* series. She has also written the widely-praised *The Silver Notebook* for older readers.

Chang-Ming has been picked for the school team! But his family has planned a trip to China to visit Chang-Ming's grandma and he will miss the big game. 'I won't go to China', he decides. But what about Grandma? And isn't a visit to China the most exciting thing ever, especially when it's Chinese New Year? Chang-Ming doesn't think so... but China is full of surprises!

Bridges is an exciting new series of multi-cultural and inter-cultural books for children, helping them to broaden their knowledge and deepen their understanding of other cultures in a fun and exciting way.

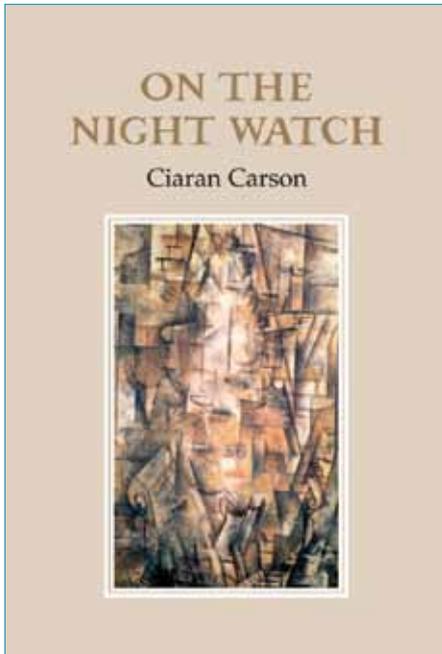
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CIARAN CARSON

ON THE NIGHT WATCH

“Woman Reading” 1911 (oil on canvas) by Georges Braque (1882-1963)
Private Collection/The Bridgeman Art Library © DACS 2009



Ciaran Carson is Professor of Poetry and Director of the Seamus Heaney Centre at Queen’s University Belfast. Previous collections include *The Irish for No, Belfast Confetti, First Language* and *For All We Know*. *Breaking News* received the Forward Prize in 2003. His *Collected Poems* appeared in 2008.

In a work of characteristically brave adventure, this ever-protean writer weaves a slow, subtle spell with a profusion of sinuous, riddling shards of memory and insight.

On the Night Watch fathoms the depths of a well and a mine to discover what can and cannot be said. Exploring the very grammar of English, it remains alert to all that stays unspoken. Exposed to the anxieties of circumstance, the poems trace the storms and calms of waiting, not knowing, from fear to the reprieve from fears, and finding in the small hours the chink of birdsong and chinks of light.

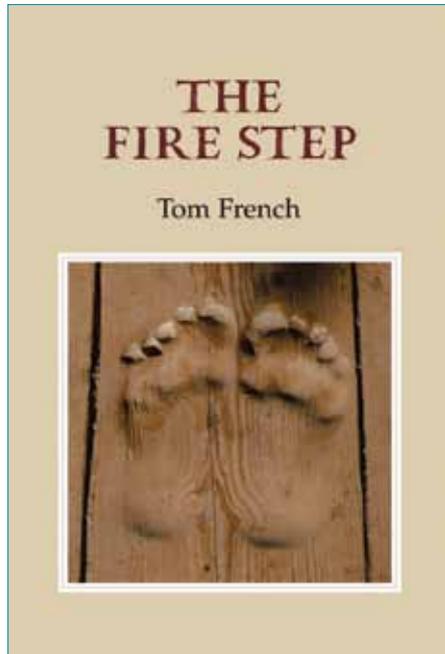
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Jean Barry, The Gallery Press, Loughcrew, Oldcastle, Co. Meath, Ireland.
www.gallerypress.com / galler@indigo.ie / +353 49 854 1779

TOM FRENCH

THE FIRE STEP

REUTERS/Reinhard Krause



Tom French was born in Kilkenny in 1966 and grew up in Tipperary. His previous collection, *Touching the Bones* (2001), was awarded the Forward Prize for First Collection in 2002. He lives with his family in Co. Meath, where he earns his living in the county library service.

Tom French's *Touching the Bones* appeared in 2001 and won the Forward Prize for Best First Collection. Eight years later, *The Fire Step* confirms the promise and achievement of both the lyric and narrative elements of that book. His 'gift for creating stunning elegiac moments... and the overall effect of measured and often beautiful responses to the inevitable' (*Nua*) extends to a number of poems which celebrate his children in subtle and artful tones and rhythms. From those auspicious beginnings, Tom French has arrived at an accomplished second stage.

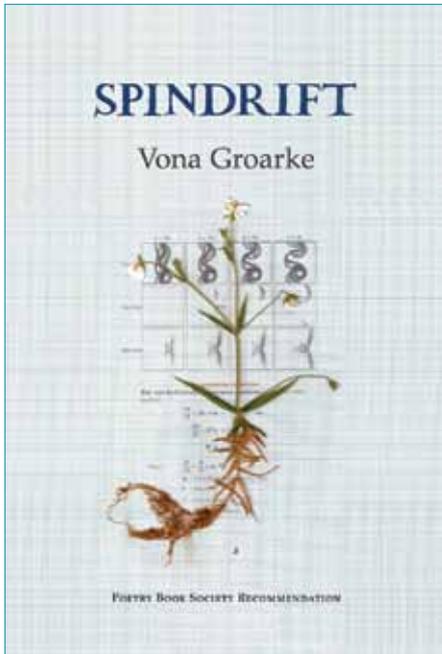
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VONA GROARKE

SPINDRIFT

'Stitchwort on ocean fluid flow simulations' by Blaise Drummond
(Simulations and equations by William McKiver)



Vona Groarke lives in Manchester, where she teaches in the Centre for New Writing at the University of Manchester. The Gallery Press has published *Shale* (1994); *Other People's Houses* (1999); *Flight* (2002), shortlisted for the Forward Prize and winner of the Michael Hartnett Poetry Prize; and *Juniper Street* (2006).

Vona Groarke's fifth collection slips between the 'away' of America or England and the West of Ireland and the remembered 'inland fields' of home. *Spindrift* offers gorgeous bits and pieces of the observed world: the sound a scissors makes; a drop of rain on a blouse; a wood pigeon's call from a rowan tree; the flare-up of a mobile phone...

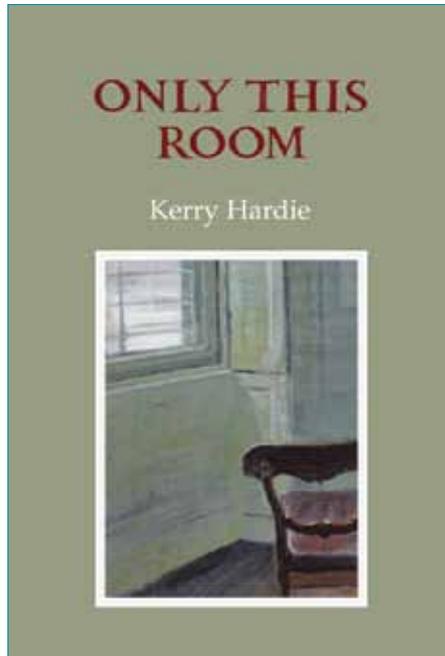
This book culminates in a title sequence of 45 short poems that glimpse a particular Connemara landscape, attending to its wildflowers and rituals, its weather and tides, concluding that, 'it is all a kind/of love song, really'.

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KERRY HARDIE**ONLY THIS ROOM**

'Interior with Chair' by Mick O'Dea, courtesy of the artist



Kerry Hardie was born in 1951 and lives in Co. Kilkenny. The Gallery Press has published *A Furious Place* (1996), *Cry for the Hot Belly* (2000), *The Sky Didn't Fall* (2003) and *The Silence Came Close* (2006). Her novels include *Hannie Bennet's Winter Marriage* (2000), and *The Bird Woman* (2006).

In the *Irish Times*, George Szirtes celebrated the 'unusual warmth' in Kerry Hardie's poems. *Only This Room* is her fifth collection. From the 'headstrong ways' of herring gulls that 'threaten and swagger and strut' and records of experience in Paris and Spain to sequences attentive to the monastic hermitage on Skellig Michael and a priory in Co. Kilkenny, the book asks 'why not content yourself / with this beautiful life here on earth?' Marking 30 years of marriage, the poems arrive at the simple wisdom of 'these are our days... there is nothing to do in the world / except live in it'.

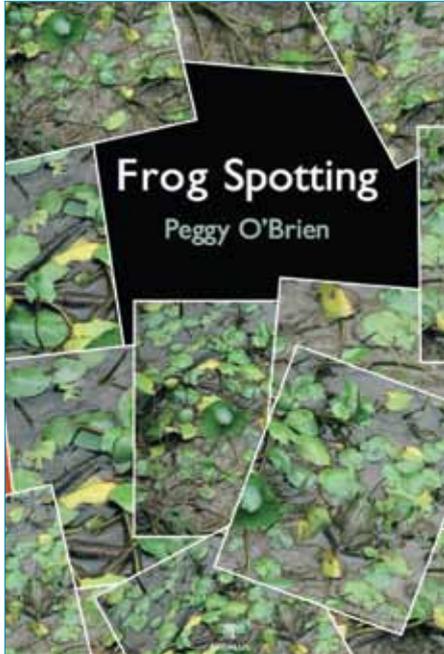
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PEGGY O'BRIEN

FROG SPOTTING

Alexander Copeland/StockPhoto.com/Pat Boran



Peggy O'Brien is a member of the English Department at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She formerly taught at Trinity College, Dublin. Her first collection of poetry was *Sudden Thaw* (2004). She is the editor of the *Wake Forest Book of Irish Women's Poetry* (2002) and the author of *Writing Lough Derg* (2006).

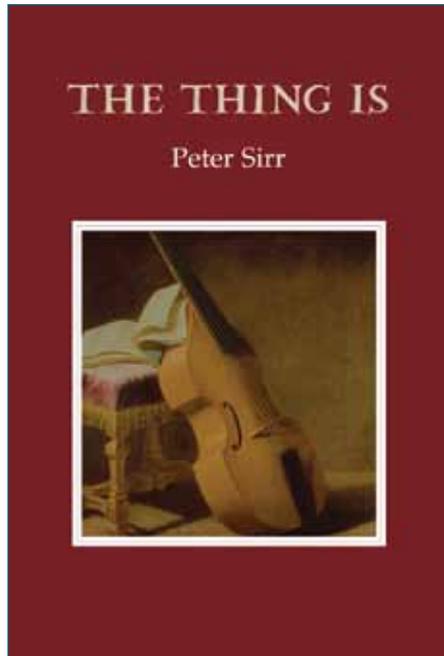
In a book that explores collective aggression through personal anger, the shadows cast by love in its different forms, a book of 'consistent elegance' (Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin), Peggy O'Brien confirms the promise of her first book, chosen by Luke Gibbons in the *Irish Times* as one of the Books of the Year: 'Peggy O'Brien puts words on exactly the kind of emotions that censors fear most: subtle, elusive and tinged with erotic intensity. Even when she swims in dangerous waters, Peggy O'Brien usually wears the life-jacket of humour'.

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PETER SIRR**THE THING IS**

'Bass Viol, Score Sheet and a Sword' (detail), 1693 (oil on canvas)
by Boyer/The Bridgeman Art Library



Peter SIRR lives in Dublin, where he works as a freelance writer, editor and translator. The Gallery Press has published *Marginal Zones* (1984), *Talk, Talk* (1987), *Ways of Falling* (1991), *The Ledger of Fruitful Exchange* (1995) and *Bring Everything* (2000). *Nonetheless* and *Selected Poems 1982-2004* were published in 2004.

From a glimpse of his pregnant wife and the ensuing epiphany, 'we are walking slowly out of our old lives', an extended sequence at the heart of Peter SIRR's new collection describes the reality of new life and new joy. *The Thing Is* is Peter SIRR's most personal and engaging book so far. His broad perspectives and sharp intelligence are now infused with emotional amplitude. The book's coda, 'Carmina', is an energetic rendering of the sexual shenanigans and invective of Catullus' originals.

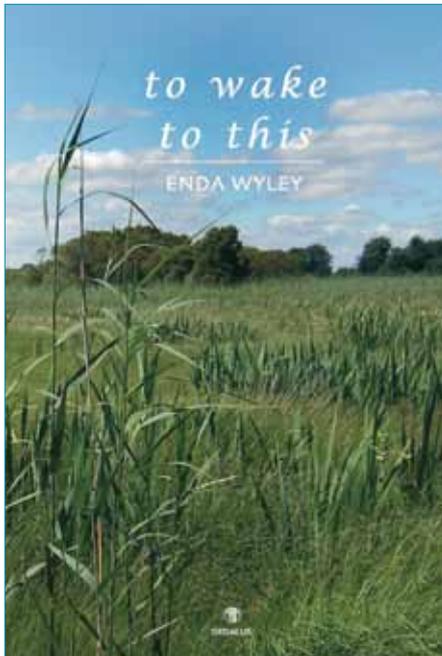
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ENDA WYLEY

TO WAKE TO THIS

Peter Siff



Enda Wyley was born in Dublin where she teaches in the inner city. She holds an MA in Creative Writing from Lancaster University, and awards for her poetry include the inaugural Vincent Buckley Poetry Prize. As well as three previous volumes of poetry, she also writes fiction for children.

Enda Wyley's fourth collection is a celebration of a contemporary world she has refreshingly made her own. These are poems, as noted by *Poetry Ireland Review*, which offer a broad sweep of the 'inner eye' over her chosen subjects and they do so with subtlety and grace, the poet's questioning stance ever present: 'How can I say what I really mean, just how it really is?'

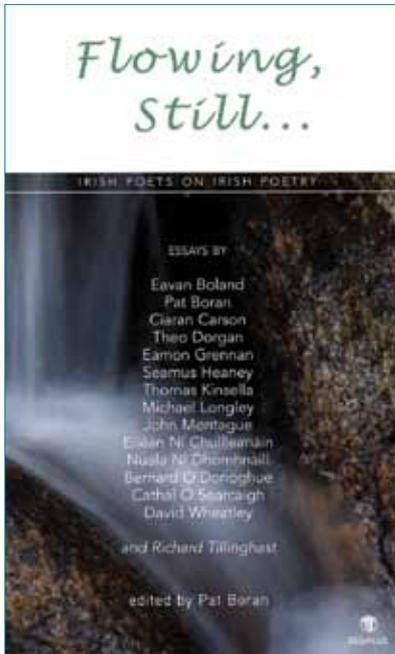
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PAT BORAN (ED.)

FLOWING, STILL: IRISH POETS ON IRISH POETRY

Wild Side Photography / iStockPhoto.com



Pat Boran is the publisher and editor of the Dedalus Press. His poetry includes *New and Selected Poems* (2005/2007), with selections published in Italian, Hungarian and Macedonian. He has also edited *Wingspan: A Dedalus Sampler* (2006), an anthology of the Irish and international poets on the Dedalus list.

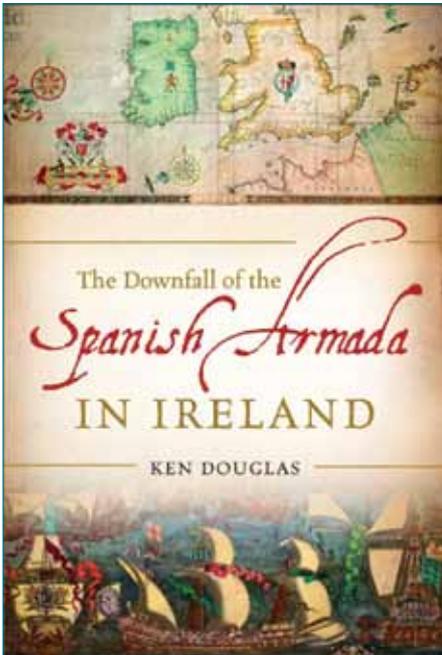
An ideal introduction for the student and general reader alike, *Flowing, Still* is a unique collection of essays on Irish poetry from 1900 to the present day in the words of some of its most celebrated living practitioners. Contributors include Seamus Heaney, Eavan Boland, Michael Longley, Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill, Thomas Kinsella and John Montague.

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KEN DOUGLAS

THE DOWNFALL OF THE SPANISH ARMADA IN IRELAND



Ken Douglas has been engaged in research into the history of the Spanish Armada in Ireland for more than 35 years, accessing original documents from both Spanish and Irish sources. He was uniquely placed to assemble relevant data in chronological order and find innovative interpretations new to Irish history.

A siren of alluring beauty, the Irish coast also conceals deadly danger. Destiny was to conspire to transform it into an instrument of terrible destruction and tragic loss of life for the vessels and crew of the Spanish Armada. In all, 24 Spanish ships were lost in Ireland and about 5,000 men died – far greater losses than had been suffered in the English Channel. The English navy had won the Battle of Gravelines on points, but it had not succeeded in bringing about the downfall of the Armada; the Irish coast did.

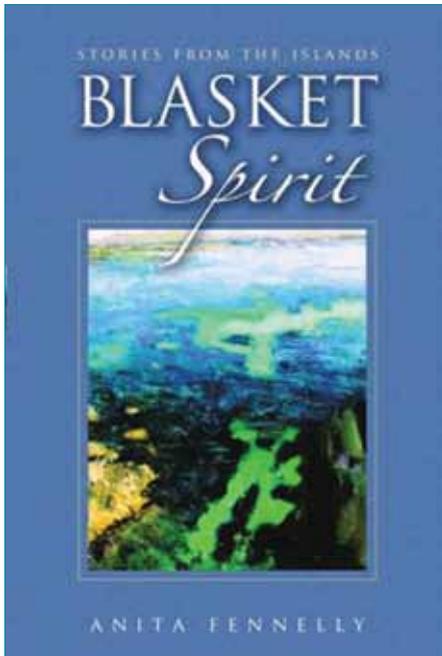
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ANITA FENNELLY

BLASKET SPIRIT: STORIES FROM THE ISLANDS

Artmark



Anita Fennelly is a graduate of the former Thomond College of Education, now the University of Limerick. She worked for a number of years in Portugal and England. On her return she moved to south Kilkenny and now teaches English and drama in New Ross, Co. Wexford.

At the end of a difficult year, Anita Fennelly was suffering from physical, mental and emotional burnout. To get away from it all, she sat into her car and drove, ending up at the ferry in Dunquin, bound for the Great Blasket. Anita spent the summer alone on the island in a tiny barn. This is her account of the gradual thawing of her personal isolation through the friendship of the characters of Blasket Island life today. Anita weaves a tapestry of tales: ghost stories told by the fireside, stories of love and hatred, stories celebrating womanhood.

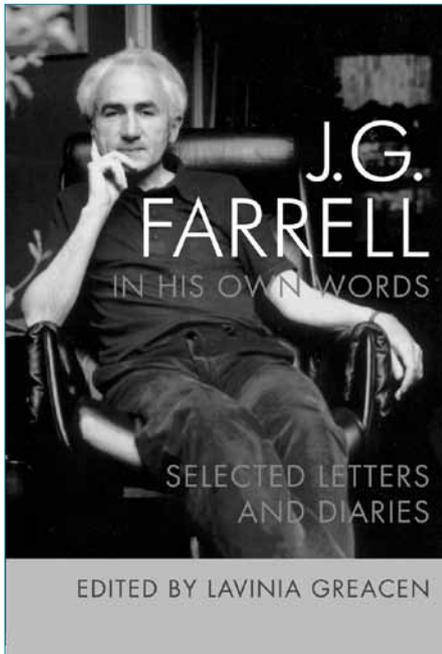
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LAVINIA GREACEN (ED.), FOREWARD BY JOHN BANVILLE

J.G. FARRELL IN HIS OWN WORDS: SELECTED LETTERS AND DIARIES

Jane Bown



Lavinia Greacen is author of *Chink: A Biography* (Macmillan, 1990) and *J.G. Farrell: The Making of a Writer* (Bloomsbury, 1999).

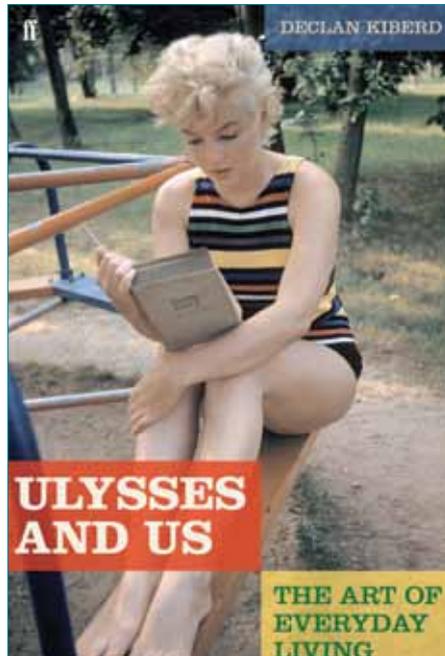
The Booker Prize-winning novelist J.G. Farrell – known to his friends as Jim – was drowned on August 11, 1979 when he was swept off rocks by a sudden storm while fishing in the West of Ireland. He was in his early forties. ‘Had he not sadly died so young,’ remarked Salman Rushdie in 2008, ‘there is no question that he would today be one of the really major novelists of the English language. The three novels that he did leave are all in their different way extraordinary.’ These previously unpublished letters give the reader a glimpse of this private man.

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DECLAN KIBERD

ULYSSES AND US: THE ART OF EVERYDAY LIVING



Declan Kiberd is the author of the hugely influential book, *Inventing Ireland: The Literature of the Modern Nation*, which won the *Irish Times* Prize in 1995, and *Irish Classics*, which won the prestigious Lannan Prize in the U.S.A. He is the Professor of Anglo-Irish Literature at University College Dublin.

Ulysses, which for many readers seems intimidating, is one of the great books that can teach us how to live better lives. Declan Kiberd shows that *Ulysses*, far from being the epitome of elitism, was always intended as a book for the common people.

Ulysses and Us can also be read as a guide to Joyce, his novel and its context in the history of Ireland and of Dublin.

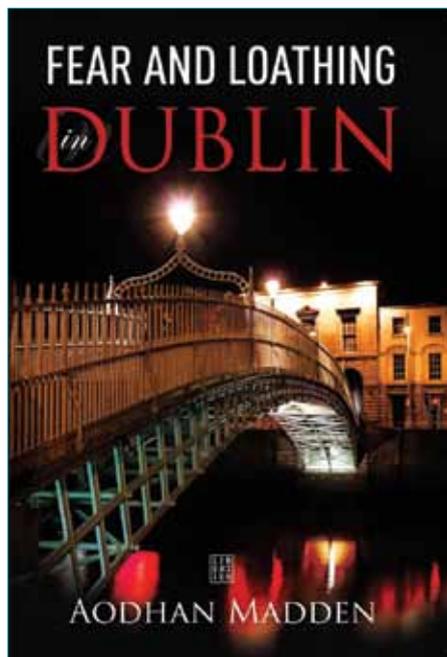
Kiberd has written a moving and controversial book, free of jargon and specialist concerns. With it, he confirms his position as one of Ireland's leading public intellectuals.

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AODHÁN MADDEN

FEAR AND LOATHING IN DUBLIN



Aodhán Madden is a playwright, short-story writer and poet, and member of Aosdána. His work has been produced by the National Theatre and by many of Dublin's leading producers. His screenplays include *Night Train* (1998), for which John Hurt received the Best Actor award at the Verona Film Festival.

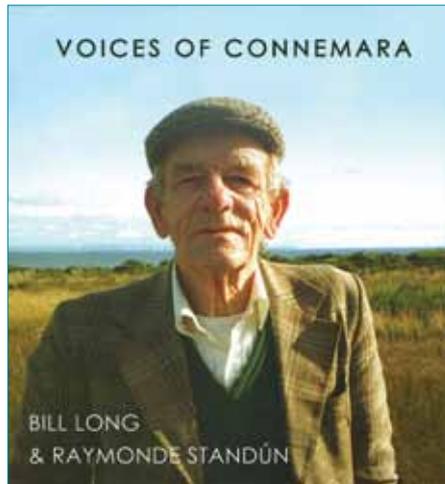
Memoir from Irish playwright Aodhán Madden tracing his life from an alcoholic journalist battling his sexuality to his attempts at recovery and developing a writing career. Whilst confronting his sexuality and the ignorance of others towards 'filthy queers', he suffered from severe paranoia, resulting in suicide attempts. One of the few people to have ever attempted to escape *into* a mental institution, Madden sought relief in everything from the bottle to the sanatorium. St. Patrick's Hospital patients are portrayed as amusing characters, yet with a heartbreaking frailty and depth.

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RAYMONDE STANDÚN & BILL LONG

VOICES OF CONNEMARA



Raymonde Standún is a native of Cork. She lived in France for three years, where she developed her interest in photography. She now lives in Connemara.

Bill Long is a well-known broadcaster and has made over 200 broadcasts on RTÉ's Sunday Miscellany. He has published several books with New Island.

When Raymonde Standún set about photographing the local people of the South Connemara Gaeltacht, she quickly sensed that here were stories to be told that lay beyond the reach of a camera.

Set against Standún's stunning images are stories of poitín for two bob, the baker's island delivery boat and the trials of line-fishing, alongside darker tales, still vibrant in the collective memory, of landlord brutality, famine and emigration.

Edited by Bill Long, who also introduces the volume, here are the extraordinary voices of the ordinary people of Connemara, voices of the living as well as of the dead.

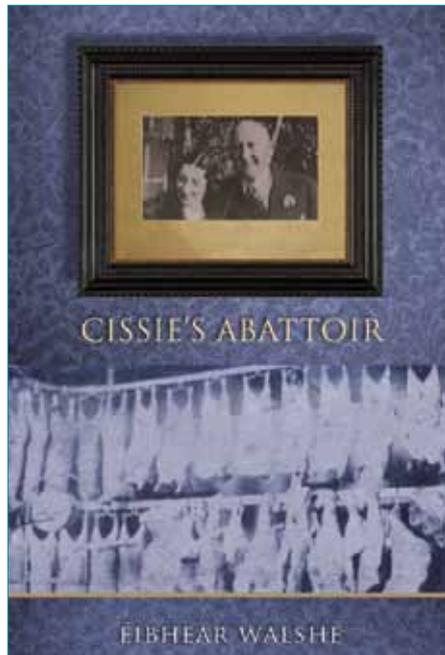
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EIBHEAR WALSHE

CISSIE'S ABATTOIR

Artmark



Eibhear Walshe, born in Waterford in 1962 and educated at De La Salle College and University College Dublin, is a senior lecturer in Modern English at University College Cork. He has published several books over the years.

This autobiographical sketch of a child growing up in Ireland in the 1960s and 1970s recounts his personal voyage in parallel with the story of the most entertaining adult in his life, his glamorous grandmother, the abattoir owner, Cissie.

Written as an Irish gay coming-of-age story, this is the account of a city and of a self-proclaimed Nancy boy who grows into a meaningful and happy existence. But the most important character throughout is the fashion-conscious, poker-playing Cissie, his lively and witty little grandmother who taught him by example how to survive and prosper, how to live with style and verve.

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