



RIGHTS GUIDE

FRANKFURT
BOOK FAIR 2026

New Island Books
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NEW ISLAND



Culture Ireland
Cultúr Éireann



FICTION

2026-2027

THE SPANKING GODDESS

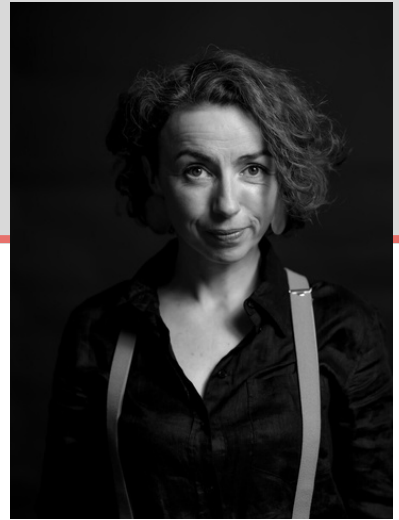
AND OTHER DISCARDED TALES

CLARE MURPHY

'Masterful storytelling' *Culture Whisperer*

IRISH MYTHS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY, FULL OF BAD-ASS DEITIES, FERAL FIGHTERS, UNORTHODOX SEX, HAIRY BODIES AND GODDESS-ON-GODDESS BATTLES.

In *The Spanking Goddess & Other Discarded Tales*, Clare Murphy exhumes the Celtic canon to bring the wild stories that never made the cut, back into the light. A shapeshifter spansks her opponent, twelve fathers raise a girl to be a Fianna captain, a queen balances on the point of a spear, a man uses music and sex to heal a broken soul, heroes are defeated by mother-daughter warriors and a woman is the first person to settle Ireland. These are not our regular myths. Rather they are subversive tales, not for the fainthearted and definitely for grownups.



45,000 words

Rights available: World, all languages

Live storytelling since 2006, **CLARE MURPHY**
Live storytelling since 2006, Clare Murphy brings the ancient art of story firmly into the contemporary world where it belongs. Murphy has performed all over the world including at NASA Jet Propulsion Lab, the National Theatre London and for President Mary Robinson. The Spanking Goddess is her first book and draws from her live show of the same name.

claremurphy.org

THE BEST BOY IN THE WORLD

SEÁN FARRELL

Praise for Seán's first book:

Shortlisted for John McGahern Debut Novel Prize and
Irish Book Award

'Tremendous debut' *The Irish Times*

'A gorgeous depiction of a troubled childhood' *Irish Examiner*

'Dark, funny, tender and raw' *Sunday World*

**SOME DIFFERENCES ARE IRRECONCILABLE – AND EVEN A
MOTHER'S LOVE CANNOT STOP TWO BROTHERS WHEN
THEY DECIDE TO GO TO WAR.**

Escaping a terrible predicament, Suzanne flees her native France with her infant son, Adam. In England she marries and has another boy, Rickie. Although a comfortable family life provides her with much-needed stability, Suzanne remains a fish out of water.

Adam and Rickie have very different ideas of what it is to be a man. But Suzanne's mother is dying, and she wants to bring her family on one last trip to France to say goodbye. Thrown together, the brothers' priorities align and they begin to find common ground – until Adam is accused of rape.

As the family unravels Rickie's wife, Elle, bears the brunt of a deadly sibling rivalry.

Told in a series of candid snapshots, *The Best Boy in the World* is a mesmerising album of one family's implosion, and what it takes to overcome the legacy of generational trauma.



100,000 words

Rights available: Translation

Rights sold: UK Comm, ex Canada (print/ebook: John Murray, audio: Bolinda)

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marianne@mariannegunnoconnor.com

SEÁN FARRELL was born and brought up in the Irish midlands. After graduating from Cambridge University, he spent fifteen years in France. As well as writing, he works as a freelance editor. He lives in Sligo with his wife, the novelist Elske Rahill, and their four children. His first novel, *Frogs for Watchdogs*, was published to critical acclaim in 2025 and was shortlisted for an Irish Book Award. *The Best Boy in the World* is his second novel.

IMPERFECT BEINGS

DERMOT BOLGER

'The fine-tuned work of a mature, master writer addressing themes that ring true with the years.' *The Irish Times*

'A new book from Dermot Bolger, one of the great Irish writers of his time, is always a reason to celebrate.'

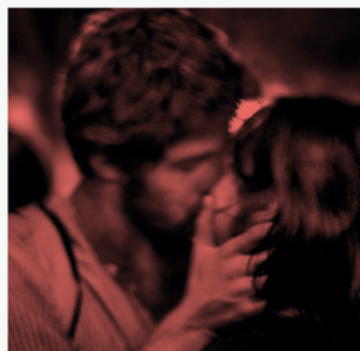
Joseph O'Connor

'Delivering blunt life lessons, unvarnished home truths.' *Irish Examiner*

FROM FIRST LOVE TO FINAL RECKONING, THIS POIGNANT NEW COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES BY MASTER STORYTELLER DERMOT BOLGER CAPTURES THE HEARTBREAK AND HOPE THAT DEFINE US.

Life moves forward, but its meaning often emerges in hindsight. In this luminous collection, Dermot Bolger captures those unexpected moments when past loves and choices resurface with startling clarity. These stories explore ageing, memory, and the lingering imprint of first encounters - how joy, loss, and betrayal echo across decades.

A man searches for a secret half-sister to understand his father. A woman is haunted by a boy's death fifty years ago. A lighthouse keeper recalls his first love. A public figure, slipping into dementia, relives one fateful night. From childhood holidays shadowed by tragedy to chance reunions that rewrite old narratives, Bolger's characters wrestle with Yeats's 'rag and bone shop of the heart', revealing the fragile beauty of human connection.



Imperfect Beings

DERMOT BOLGER

72,000 words / 272pp

Rights available: World, all languages

DERMOT BOLGER is one of Ireland's best-known writers across a range of genres. His fifteen novels include *The Journey Home*, *The Family on Paradise Pier*, *New Town Soul*, *Tanglewood*, *The Lonely Sea and Sky* and most recently, *Hide Away*. He is also an accomplished playwright and poet, with his most recent play, *Last Orders at the Docks*, having a hugely successful sold-out run at the Abbey Theatre in 2019.



NEW ISLAND