

FICTION BACKLIST

NEW ISLAND BOOKS

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The Fall of Ireland

Dermot Bolger

An intimate human study and subtle portrait of a country in flux.

As Ireland's government clings to its failing authority and an international troika gathers in the wings, mid-level civil servant Martin finds himself isolated in a Beijing hotel, an unnecessary extra on a high-stakes diplomatic trip. A tense encounter with a Chinese masseuse exposes deep cracks between the competent façade he shows the world and the anxieties he carries within. In the gilded confinement of the hotel, Martin confronts the uneasy gap between who he is, who he pretends to be, and what he fears becoming. **The Fall of Ireland** offers a quiet, perceptive meditation on self-deception, displacement, and the fragile illusions that shape both personal and national identity.

Published 2012, 112pp. Rights available: World. Rights sold: Bulgarian.

*'I think of Bolger as
Dublin's Pasolini'*
Paul Durcan



Secrets Never Told

Dermot Bolger

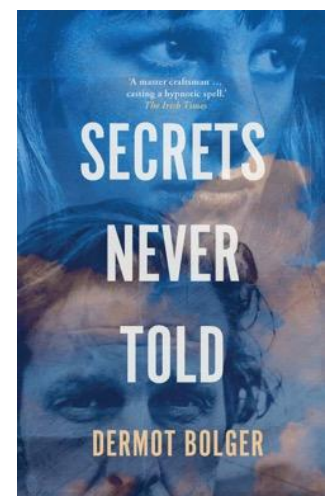
Dermot Bolger's first collection of stories explores the hidden forces that bind families together – or pull them apart.

This collection draws readers into the concealed corners of ordinary lives. A widow searches a cemetery for the stranger honouring her husband. A daughter travels abroad seeking the father who vanished decades earlier. A former lover of Roger Casement watches his state funeral in silence, remembering a life once hidden. At a book launch, a writer meets the person quietly responsible for his success.

Through these intimate, finely observed stories, Bolger reveals how secrets—kept, buried, or half-understood—shape relationships and leave their mark. **Secrets Never Told** is a compassionate and incisive exploration of the truths people chase and the ones they fear to uncover.

Published 2020, 264pp. Rights available: World.

*'Delivered with
precision and poise'*
Irish Times



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Hide Away

Dermot Bolger

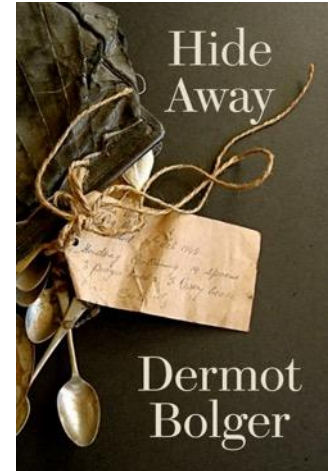
In Grangegorman Mental Hospital in 1941, four lives intersect, each shaped by war, guilt, and unspoken history.

In wartime Dublin, Grangegorman becomes a place where Ireland's past quietly bleeds into the present. Gus, a perceptive attendant, guards the secrets of staff and patients. Two former comrades from the War of Independence meet again: Jimmy Nolan, institutionalised by the weight of early violence, and Francis Dillon, a businessman unravelled by revived fears of Civil War reprisals. Newly arrived from London, Dr Fairfax—grieving a lost lover—seeks purpose by helping Dillon confront his past, but encounters the silence that shields Ireland's collective wounds.

Atmospheric and deeply humane, *Hide Away* probes the long shadow of conflict and the fragile attempts people make to piece together lives altered by what they cannot forget.

Published 2024, 288pp. Rights available: World.

'Vivid storytelling'
Impartial Reporter



The Lonely Sea and Sky

Dermot Bolger

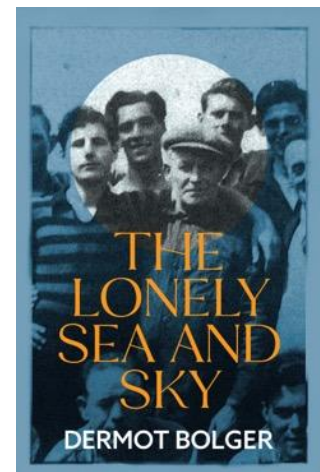
A gripping wartime coming-of-age tale inspired by real events.

Fourteen-year-old Jack Roche signs on with the tiny Wexford ship *Kerlogue*, determined to support his family after his father's death at sea. The voyage to Portugal plunges him into a world of danger and discovery, from Lisbon's charged streets – crowded with refugees, spies, and survivors – to an unexpected friendship with Katerina, a Czech girl navigating her own precarious life.

When the *Kerlogue* encounters German sailors struggling in the icy Atlantic after a torpedo attack, the crew must risk everything to save them – even though these are the men whose navy killed Jack's father. Bolger's novel blends adventure, moral complexity, and vivid historical detail to portray a young boy confronting the harsh truths of war, loyalty, and courage.

Published 2022, 400pp. Rights available: World.

'Engaging reading'
Irish Times



An Ark of Light

Dermot Bolger

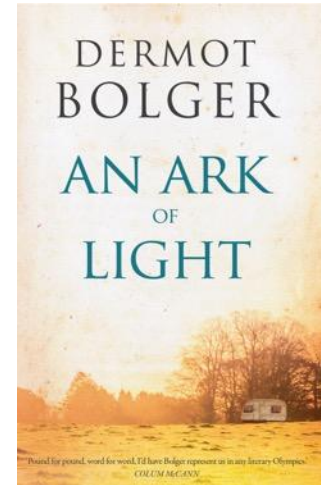
A moving portrait of a woman fighting to claim her happiness and identity across decades of upheaval.

Eva Fitzgerald defies 1950s convention by leaving a failed marriage to pursue a life shaped by conviction rather than duty. Her journey brings her from the crowded streets of Morocco to the turbulent activism of London, and finally to a Mayo field, where an old caravan becomes a refuge for both herself and the misfits she gathers around her.

As she tries to hold her family together, Eva confronts the unraveling lives of her children – her anxious care for her gay son in a hostile Ireland, and her fraught bond with a daughter whose path diverges sharply from her own. Richly rendered and emotionally resonant, **An Ark of Light** completes the story begun in *The Family on Paradise Pier*, offering a profound reflection on love, resilience, and the cost of choosing one's own way.

Published 2018, 414pp. Rights available: World. Rights sold: French.

*'Superbly written
and beautifully
moving'* RTE
Culture



A Second Life

Dermot Bolger

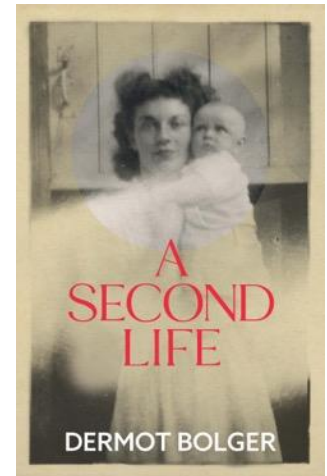
A powerful novel about identity, buried history, and a man searching for the truth of his own beginnings.

After a near-fatal car crash, Dublin photographer Sean Blake feels irrevocably changed. His brief brush with death resurrects an unsettling childhood memory: being taken from his birth mother, a young girl forced to give him up in a Magdalene institution. To understand who he truly is, Sean must confront a lifetime of silence and official obstruction.

As he pursues fragments of his past – through archives, interviews, and painful confessions – he begins to rebuild the story of the mother he never knew and the circumstances that shaped them both. Deeply moving and sharply observed, **A Second Life** is a compelling exploration of personal identity and the long shadows cast by Ireland's institutional history.

*He has been prying
open the Irish
ribcage since he
was 16 years old'*
Colum McCann

Published 2022, 302pp. Rights available: World. Rights sold: Japanese and French.



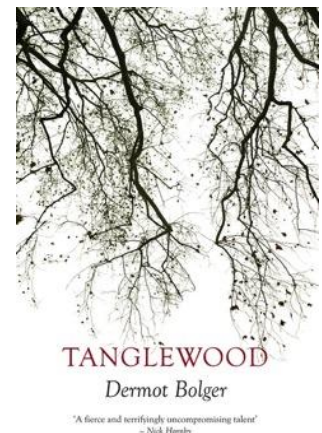
*An outstanding
piece of work'
Irish Times*

Tanglewood

Dermot Bolger

A vivid, unsettling portrait of two couples drawn into a moral crisis on the brink of the Celtic Tiger's collapse.

When two neighbouring Dublin couples decide to build a shared townhouse across their gardens, they never anticipate how the project will expose fault lines in their relationships. One late-night decision confronts Chris and Ronan with a moral dilemma that sends both couples into unfamiliar, frightening territory. As the veneer of prosperity hides an economy beginning to fracture, the characters navigate simmering tensions and loyalties tested to breaking point. **Tanglewood** blends psychological insight with social detail, capturing the shifting ground of Ireland in 2007 and the fragile bonds of memory, marriage, and obligation.



Published 2015, 288pp. Rights available: World.

New Town Soul

Dermot Bolger

A gripping, supernatural-tinged young adult novel about friendship, danger, and the seduction of immortality.

Shane is Joey's new best friend – charming, reckless, and unsettlingly changeable. Joey longs to grow closer to Geraldine, but she wants nothing to do with him while Shane is around. As

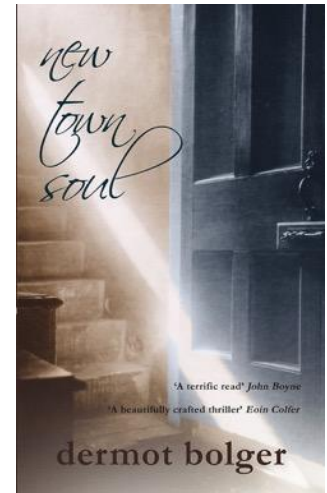
*'He shines a
reflective torch on
the dark side of the
teenage psyche'
Irish Independent*

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strange events accumulate, Joey begins to suspect that Geraldine may be right to fear Shane's influence.

A mysterious old man seems to know more about Shane's past than he should, and a derelict house in Blackrock holds a secret Joey is determined to uncover. Part supernatural thriller, part coming-of-age tale, **New Town Soul** explores the freedoms of youth, the dangers of desire, and the unsettling cost of a life that refuses to end.

Published 2011, 264pp. Rights available: World.



A June of Ordinary Murders

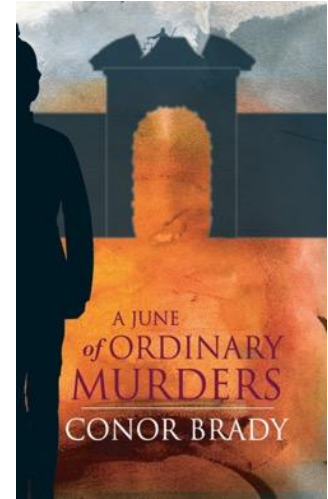
Conor Brady

The first Joe Swallow novel – a vivid, atmospheric crime mystery set in a sweltering 1887 Dublin.

During an oppressive heatwave in June 1887, Dublin is shaken by the discovery of two mutilated bodies in Phoenix Park. With political crime prioritised over 'ordinary' murder, Detective Sergeant Joe Swallow must navigate obstruction from superiors, rising gang tensions, and the looming celebration of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. As the body count grows and evidence suggests involvement at the highest levels, Swallow races to uncover the truth in a city simmering with unrest. Richly evocative and sharply plotted, **A June of Ordinary Murders** introduces a detective and a Dublin on the brink of change.

Published 2012, 400pp. Rights available: World. Rights sold: North America and World Audio.

*Powerful first
mystery novel'*
Kirkus Reviews



The Eloquence of the Dead

Conor Brady

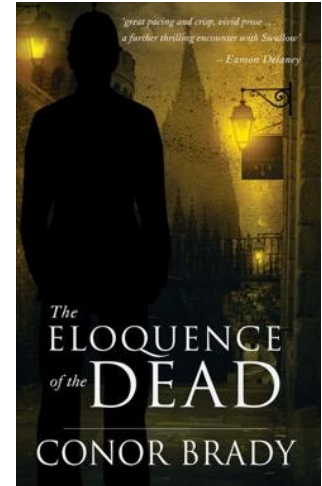
A fast-paced Joe Swallow mystery uncovering corruption, new forensic methods, and a ruthless adversary in Victorian Dublin.

When a Dublin pawnbroker is found murdered and the chief suspect vanishes, Sergeant Joe Swallow is handed a politically fraught investigation. Public fear is rising, the newspapers are quick to condemn, and Swallow's superiors want swift results. As he tracks leads from Trim to the Tower of London, Swallow encounters entrenched corruption and the emerging power of scientific detection. A dangerous opponent shadows his every move, forcing him to question whom he can trust.

*'spins a fine mystery
out of political
corruption in 1880s
Dublin'*
Kirkus Reviews

Rich in atmosphere and detail, **The Eloquence of the Dead** delivers a gripping portrait of a city—and a police force—on the cusp of modern change.

Published 2013, 384pp. Rights available: World. Right sold: North America and World Audio.



A Hunt in Winter

Conor Brady

A tense and atmospheric Victorian-era mystery as Dublin reels from a series of violent attacks on women.

In a Dublin gripped by fear after a string of assaults on women, Detective Sergeant Joe Swallow faces one of his most challenging cases. As the city's panic rises, Swallow confronts shifting loyalties, mounting political pressure, and the complexities of life on the home front.

Brady vividly recreates Victorian Dublin's streets, prejudices, and policing in this gripping third instalment of the Joe Swallow series, blending suspense with keen historical detail to show a society on the brink of change.

Published 2016, 324pp. Rights available: World. Rights sold: North America.

'A combination of the best elements of police procedurals and historical mysteries'
Kirkus Reviews



In the Dark River

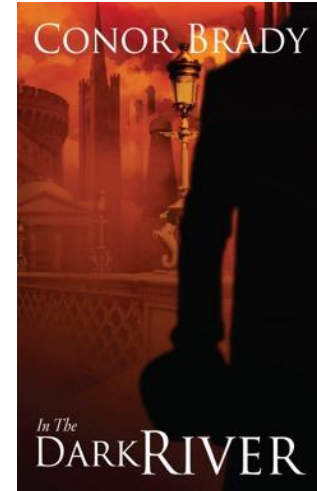
Conor Brady

A gripping Joe Swallow mystery of espionage, political intrigue, and personal turmoil in 1880s Ireland.

Detective Sergeant Joe Swallow and Chief Superintendent John Mallon find themselves battling not just violent crime, but the covert operations of British intelligence, determined to destroy Charles Stewart Parnell and derail the Home Rule movement. As political tensions rise, Swallow must juggle threats to Ireland's future with the collapse of his own marriage. His pursuit of a suspect takes him from Dublin's underbelly to Madrid and across Ireland, revealing a web of espionage, murder, and betrayal. **In the Dark River** is a masterful blend of historical detail and suspense, presenting Swallow at his most conflicted and compelling.

Published 2018, 304pp. Rights available: World. Rights sold: World Audio.

'Arguably the most realistic policeman in Irish crime fiction'
Irish Times



A Little Unsteadily into Light

New Dementia-Inspired Fiction
Jan Carson & Jane Lugea

Fourteen new stories that illuminate the diverse lived realities of dementia with honesty, humour and deep empathy.

Commissioned by Jan Carson and Jane Lugea, this collection gathers fourteen writers from Ireland and the UK to explore the many ways dementia reshapes language, memory, identity, and relationships. Each story draws on personal experience, offering voices that range from tender to darkly comic as characters navigate shifting realities, fraught family ties, and moments of unexpected clarity. Heroes, caretakers, friends, lovers, and tricksters populate these pages, revealing lives where dementia is present but never the full measure of a person.

'An outstanding anthology'
Irish Times



Moving, varied, and unflinchingly authentic, **A Little Unsteadily into Light** challenges clichés and brings fresh understanding to an illness that touches countless families.

Published 2022, 240pp. Rights available: World. Rights sold: Arabic and Greek.

He Used to Be Me

Anne Walsh Donnelly

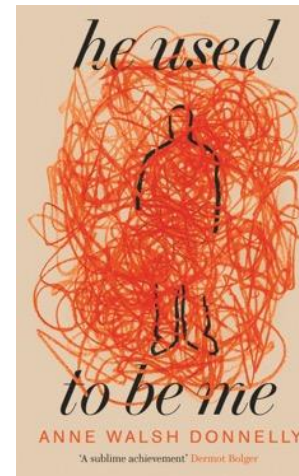
A lyrical, haunting portrait of a man reckoning with loss, memory, and the parts of himself he thought long buried.

Daft Matt roams the streets of Castlebar searching for the claw marks of the cága – the jackdaws that have spoken to him since childhood. But Matt is far from daft. Through vivid, inventive prose, Anne Walsh Donnelly traces the inner life of a man shaped by the loss of his twin brother, the exuberance of youth, and a horse-riding accident that left him in institutional care for thirty years.

Richly imagined and quietly devastating, **He Used to Be Me** reveals the hidden worlds carried within a single life, encouraging readers to look beyond surface assumptions to the tenderness and resilience beneath.

Published 2024, 128pp. Rights available: World. Rights sold: French, Polish, Chinese, Greek.

'An impressive debut'
Irish Examiner



Shift

Mia Gallagher

A bold, immersive collection exploring the messy, electric undercurrents of city life and human connection.

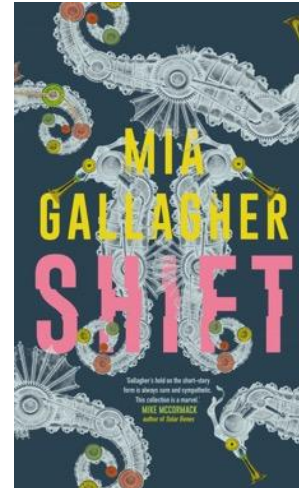
In this powerful suite of stories, Mia Gallagher captures a city on edge, where people move through bedrooms, streets, schools, and shared houses carrying desires and fears they barely understand. A perfect girl hides a brittle core; a man drinks too much and insults a stranger who is not what they seem; three rural students endure a strange new housemate downstairs; and a van driver navigates a shifting friendship with Christo, who dresses up on days he feels unmoored.

As time passes and the world changes around them, these characters encounter betrayal, tenderness, unexpected grace, and the weight of past wounds. Dark, vibrant, and

'salty, loquacious style is visceral sensuality unleashed'
RTE Culture

deeply humane, **Shift** affirms Gallagher as one of Ireland's most vital storytellers.

Published 2018, 322pp. Rights available: World.



'A major achievement'
Paul Murray

Beautiful Pictures of the Lost Homeland

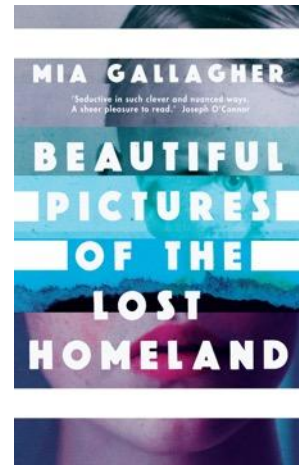
Mia Gallagher

A sweeping, inventive novel in which past and present collide through four interconnected stories shaped by trauma, memory, and the fractured borders of identity.

A bomb blast in the London Underground ruptures space and time, setting four lives spinning toward each other. Georgia Madden flees Dublin on a road trip charged with memories she struggles to outrun. In the 1970s, as the Madden family fractures, a charismatic stranger briefly binds them together. An elderly German woman recounts her wartime past for a film crew, revealing long-buried wounds. And in a volatile parallel reality, visitors wander a surreal Museum of Curiosities that refracts the characters' stories in haunting ways.

Layered, atmospheric, and daring in form, **Beautiful Pictures of the Lost Homeland** portrays generations linked by trauma, forgiveness, and the shifting landscapes of belonging.

Published 2016, 496pp. Rights available: World. Rights sold: Bulgarian.



I, Antigone

Carlo Gébler

'A wonderful achievement'
Roddy Doyle

A powerful reimagining of the Oedipus story, told through Antigone's uncompromising voice as she seeks to reclaim her family's history.

After Oedipus dies in exile, Antigone returns to Thebes determined to set the record straight. She traces the tangled histories of Oedipus, Laius, Jocasta, and others whose choices shaped her father's downfall, questioning how much blame any one person can bear. As she confronts the political and personal forces that sealed her family's fate, Antigone moves toward her own defiant act – recovering her brother's body despite the death sentence it guarantees. Insightful and resonant, **I, Antigone** offers a fresh, deeply human perspective on a mythic tale, exploring power, destiny, and the stories we inherit.

Published 2021, 256pp. Rights available: World. Rights sold: World English Audio.



Way Out West

Anthony Glavin

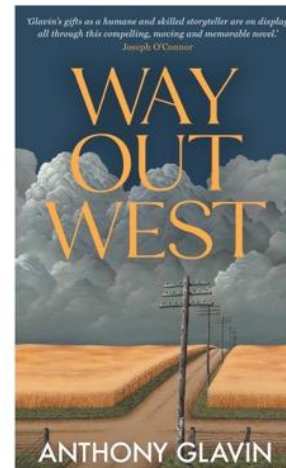
A tender, absorbing coming-of-age story following a young man shaped by loss, migration, and the search for belonging.

Fintan Doherty grows up in 1950s Donegal amid stories of America from returning emigrants and the quiet ache left by his mother's death. Restless and eager to escape, he leaves for Europe and eventually the United States, drifting through a series of jobs, lodgings, friendships, and romances that both challenge and reshape him.

At the heart of his journey is a mystery: a long-lost painting of his mother by an American artist who once visited Donegal. As Fintan searches for the painting – and for a deeper understanding of the life he left behind – **Way Out West** offers a gentle, beautifully observed exploration of memory, renewal, and the homes we try to recreate far from where we began.

Published 2024, 288pp. Rights available: World.

*'Brilliantly
structured and
flawlessly edited'
Irish Examiner*



Farewell Happy Fields

Norah Hoult

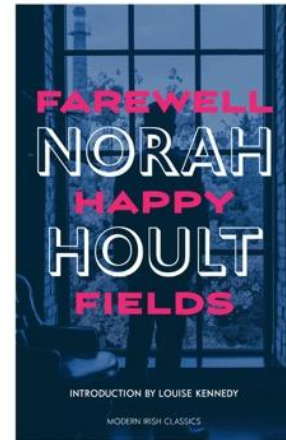
A razor-sharp, darkly comic post-war novel exposing the emotional and social constraints faced by a lost generation.

Published in 1948 and banned in Ireland, **Farewell Happy Fields** follows Adam Palmer, who is determined to defy God and destroy his own soul after a period in an asylum. His wife Kathleen struggles to maintain dignity as she endures his cruelty and manipulation.

Hoult's piercing wit and unflinching gaze reveal a post-war middle class grappling with shame, financial strain, and emotional deprivation. Back in print for the first time in decades, this modern Irish classic reintroduces a writer who brilliantly captured the unspoken tensions of ordinary lives and the quiet tragedies that unfold behind closed doors.

Published 2019, 400pp. Rights available: World.

'What is clear... is how much Norah Hoult had to say and how unafraid she was of articulating things'
Irish Times



Cocktail Bar

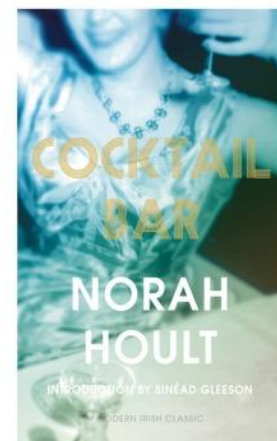
Norah Hoult

A sharp, compassionate collection revealing the quiet tensions and social pressures shaping mid-century lives.

First published in 1950, **Cocktail Bar** showcases Hoult's incisive eye for the small, revealing moments that define relationships. These stories follow characters navigating class expectations, disability, office politics, and complicated family ties – from an immigrant household preparing a 'proper Irish wedding', to a domineering matron ruling her neighbourhood, to a young woman torn between ambition abroad and loyalty at home.

Observed with Hoult's characteristic precision and empathy, this collection captures the unspoken conflicts and subtle acts of kindness that shape everyday life. A

'Discerning, versatile and sympathetic'
TLS



modern Irish classic, it remains remarkably fresh and insightful.

Published 2018, 224pp. Rights available: World. Rights sold: Spanish.

The Best of Benedict Kiely

A Selection of Stories Benedict Kiely

A rich selection of Benedict Kiely's finest stories, celebrating the distinctive voice of one of Ireland's most beloved writers.

Marking the centenary of Kiely's birth, this collection gathers many of his most acclaimed stories, originally published in *The New Yorker* and in four volumes over more than two decades. Blending song, anecdote, myth, and history, Kiely's stories evoke lived experience with warmth, wit, and effortless storytelling.

Whether exploring chance encounters, fractured memories, or the joys and sorrows of everyday life, these pieces reveal a writer deeply attuned to the rhythms of Irish speech and the complexities of the human heart. **The Best of Benedict Kiely** brings together timeless work from a master of the modern short story.

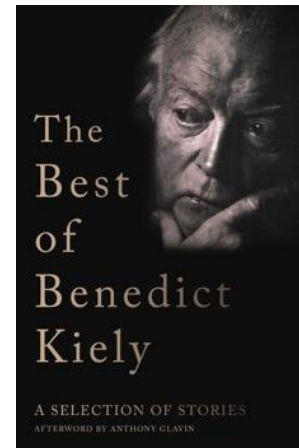
Published 2019, 272pp. Rights available: UK Commonwealth. Rights sold: World English.

Dogs Enjoy the Morning Benedict Kiely

A lively, darkly comic novel filled with unforgettable characters in the fictional village of Cosmona.

Set in the eccentric village of Cosmona, **Dogs Enjoy the Morning** teems with vivid personalities and misadventures. A one-eyed man spies on the local doctor and his wife; a traumatised chaplain roams the countryside with his three hounds; Nurse "Mouse" Walters becomes entangled with a bedridden Brother Lane; and two Dublin girls on the loose cross paths with a seasoned thief who targets sailors. Even

*'one of Ireland's
best-loved
modern writers'
Irish Independent*

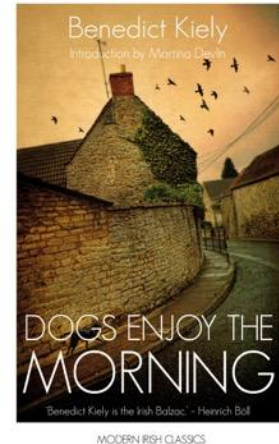


*'Dogs Enjoy the
Morning... is still
(mainly) good,
dirty fun'
Irish Times*

Gabriel Rock and daft Nora find a moment of passion atop the village tower, scandalising onlookers.

With humour, energy, and a touch of the surreal, Kiely creates a memorable portrait of rural life where chaos and charm sit side by side.

Published 2017, 336pp. Rights available: World.



A Quiet Tide

Marianne Lee

A deeply moving, atmospheric debut about Ireland's first female botanist that history nearly forgot.

Ellen Hutchins – unmarried, unwell, and bound to her family's declining estate in early-19th-century Cork – was long dismissed as 'unsuccessful'. Yet she became Ireland's first female botanist, cataloguing over a thousand species from Bantry Bay.

In this evocative novel, Marianne Lee brings Ellen's inner world to life, capturing her private search for meaning amid strict social expectations, fraught family conflict, and the mental strain that shadows her later years. As Ellen's passion for the natural world grows, so too does the quiet darkness threatening her fragile hold on happiness.

A Quiet Tide is a luminous, haunting portrait of a remarkable woman whose work endured even as her voice was nearly lost to history.

Published 2022, 416pp. Rights available: World. Rights sold: Turkish and World English Audio.

'An exemplary act of literary ventriloquism'
Sunday Business Post



City of the Tribes

Walter Macken

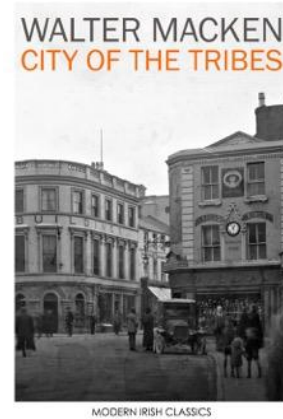
'A born story teller' *Kirkus Reviews*

Stories rich with drama and insight, portraying Galway's people and struggles in the 1940s with warmth and authenticity.

Conceived as a thematic collection, **City of the Tribes** offers a vivid evocation of Galway life in the 1940s. Macken captures the humour, resilience, and hardship of ordinary people as they navigate poverty, political conservatism, and the ever-present challenges posed by the sea.

These stories do not idealise the past; instead, they celebrate the humanity of characters living within a community Macken knew intimately. First published posthumously in 1997, this collection reaffirms his standing as one of Ireland's most beloved chroniclers of the 'plain people' of the west, and a master of the short story form.

Published 2020, 288pp. Rights available: World.



The Bogman

Walter Macken

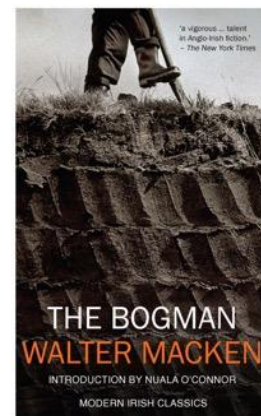
A haunting, humane portrait of rural hardship, family control, and one young man's fight for freedom.

Orphaned young and raised in the strict household of his domineering grandfather, Cahal Kinsella returns from an industrial school in Letterfrack to the small farming village of Caherlo in West Galway. Life there is stark and unforgiving – marked by back-breaking labour, arranged marriages, and the suffocating weight of social expectation.

Macken brings Cahal's struggle to life with warmth and unflinching honesty, capturing both the grinding realities of subsistence farming and the quiet acts of defiance that help Cahal carve out a sense of self. Written in 1952 and revived as part of the Modern Irish Classics series, **The Bogman** remains a powerful, enduring depiction of rural Irish life.

Published 2020, 388pp. Rights available: World.

*'Galway's
neglected genius
of literature'
Connacht
Tribune*



Once We Sang Like Other Men

John MacKenna

A lyrical, mysterious collection tracing the aftershocks of one man's violent death through the lives of his devoted followers.

These interconnected stories follow the far-flung disciples of "the Captain," a charismatic figure whose dramatic death at the hands of the army leaves a lasting mark on each of them. From isolated North American farms and dim bars to suburban Ireland and the sands of Palestine, the characters struggle to reconcile the Captain's influence with the fractured paths their lives have taken.

Through understated prose and shifting voices, MacKenna reveals how devotion, memory, and regret shape the stories we tell ourselves. **Once We Sang Like Other Men** is a quietly powerful meditation on belief, loss, and the desire to belong.

Published 2017, 240pp. Rights available: World.

'An unusual and quietly moving book'
Irish Times



We Seldom Talk About the Past

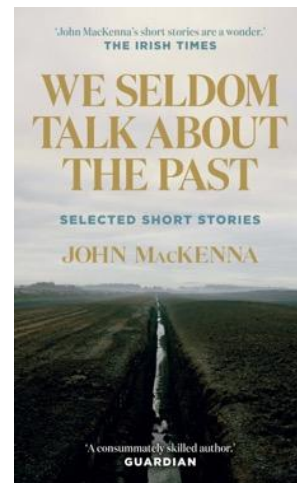
Selected Short Stories

John MacKenna

A finely crafted selection of stories exploring the quiet truths, desires and absences that shape ordinary lives.

Drawn from over three decades of work, this collection showcases John MacKenna's mastery of the short story form. Influenced by writers such as Chekhov and often compared to John McGahern and Raymond Carver, MacKenna focuses on small but pivotal moments – intimate domestic tensions, the pull of desire, the shadow of loss, and the deep imprint of place on human experience.

'A master of his craft'
Irish Times



Whether set in rural landscapes or familiar interiors, these stories reveal the emotional undercurrents that run beneath everyday life. **We Seldom Talk About the Past** is a quiet, resonant exploration of the ties that bind us and the silences we carry.

Published 2021, 344pp. Rights available: World.

The Big Yaroo

Patrick McCabe

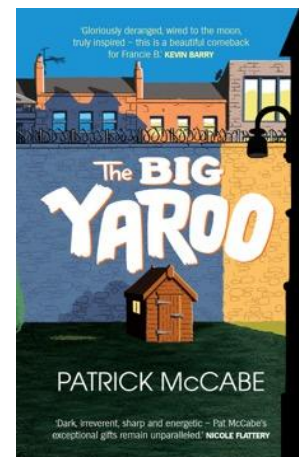
Francie Brady returns in a darkly comic, unsettling sequel to *The Butcher Boy*.

Decades after the events that defined his childhood, Francie Brady lives in Fizzbag Mansions, where he throws himself into producing his own magazine, *The Big Yaroo*. As he works against looming deadlines – literal and imagined – Francie revisits memories of his family, old friends, and the forces that shaped him.

The line between reality and delusion blurs as Francie attempts to make sense of his past and reclaim some measure of control. Both funny and disturbing, ***The Big Yaroo*** offers a haunting final portrait of one of Irish literature's most unforgettable characters.

Published 2019, 256pp. Rights available: World, excluding North America and Italy.

*'breath of fresh
air we all need'*
RTÉ Culture



Heartland

Patrick McCabe

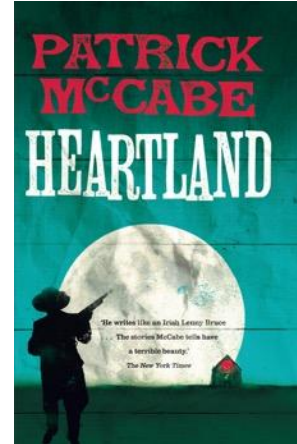
A raw, darkly poetic tale of loyalty, brutality, and the haunting consequences of past debts.

In Mervyn's Mountain Bar, seven men wait for Tony Begley and his feared boning knife, "Sweetie." Above them hides Ray "Ringo" Wade, consumed by the knowledge that his only friend, Jody, lies bound in the outhouse, awaiting violent retribution. Their crime: crossing the powerful William Walter Monroe – the man who raised them in his own ruthless image.

*'A storytelling
ability that rivals
no other'* RTÉ
Culture

As Ray recounts the tangled history leading to this moment, his grip on reality blurs. Shame, loyalty, and Monroe's dark influence shape a story steeped in menace and black comedy. **Heartland** is a fierce, unsettling exploration of the harm we inherit, inflict, and struggle to escape.

Published 2018, 336pp. Rights available: World, excluding North America and Italy.



'A deeply intelligent mosaic'
Colum McCann

Words To Shape My Name

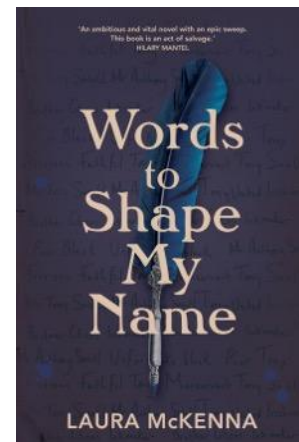
Laura McKenna

A sweeping, insightful novel tracing the life of Tony Small from enslavement to revolutionary Ireland.

In 1857 London, Harriet Small receives her father's long-lost 'True Narrative', recounting his escape from slavery and his years alongside Lord Edward Fitzgerald during the 1798 Rebellion. Commissioned by Fitzgerald's sister to restore the family's reputation, the narrative reveals a complex bond between Tony Small and the man he served – marked by loyalty, inequality, affection, and unease.

As Harriet reads, she discovers not only her father's sacrifices but the emotional and political landscapes he navigated: from war-torn South Carolina to Irish drawing rooms, Caribbean plantations, Canadian wilderness and revolutionary Europe. Powerful and expansive, **Words To Shape My Name** explores freedom, identity, and the stories a life leaves behind.

Published 2021, 368pp. Rights available: World.



'Remarkable novel' BBC Radio

Lenny

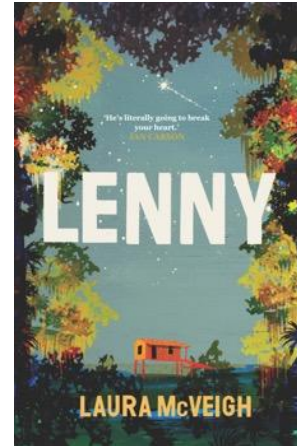
Laura McVeigh

A moving, imaginative novel about a boy determined to save his world as the adults around him begin to break apart.

In the Libyan desert during the 2011 Civil War, a mysterious pilot falls from the sky and is transformed by the young boy who rescues him. A year later in Louisiana, ten-year-old Lenny Lockhart faces his own disasters – environmental damage, economic hardship, and the slow disappearance of the people he loves. His only allies are his elderly neighbour, Miss Julie, and the town librarian, Lucy Albert.

When a massive sinkhole threatens Roseville, Lenny ventures into the bayou, determined to confront the danger himself. As two timelines converge, **Lenny** becomes a tender and compelling story about imagination, resilience, and the surprising ways a child can hold a fractured world together.

Published 2022, 288pp. Rights available: World. Rights sold: Bulgarian and Audio.



SLANT

Katherine O'Donnell

A groundbreaking novel about lesbian love, activism, and the lingering impact of the AIDS crisis.

Ro McCarthy, single and in her fifties, spends her days quietly working, reading, and leaning on the friendships that sustain her. Though sceptical of marriage, she throws herself into canvassing for the 2015 marriage equality referendum in Ireland – rekindling memories she has long tried to suppress.

Thirty years earlier in Boston, Ro lived undocumented, juggling jobs, forging deep friendships, and falling in love with Jenny, all while the AIDS crisis devastated the community around them. The activism, grief, and resilience of those years shaped her profoundly, and the ghosts of that time now return with force.

Tender, angry, and fiercely honest, **SLANT** traces the survival of an 'invisible generation' and celebrates the many forms of love needed to sustain a life.

Published 2026, 336pp. Rights available: World.

'A heartfelt celebration of all kinds of queer love'
Gay Community News



Two Summers

Glenn Patterson

Two linked novellas capturing the yearning, confusion, and restless energy of adolescence during two pivotal summers.

In **Summer on the Road**, it's 1980, and Mark has landed a job sweeping streets for Belfast City Council—a role he never imagined taking. Navigating bomb scares, chaotic home life, and the awkward shifts of late adolescence, he starts to glimpse his own path forward.

In **Last Summer of the Shangri-Las**, three years earlier, Gem is sent to New York after pushing his mother to her limit. Amid the heatwave, punk, disco, and the shadow of the 'summer of Sam', Gem meets Vivien and falls into the orbit of Mary, Liz, and Margie – three members of a local girl group who leave a lasting mark on him.

Together, these stories explore how young people make sense of who they are – and who they hope to become – against the backdrop of the places that shape them.

Published 2023, 208pp. Rights available: World.

'A fascinating look at life in Belfast during the Troubles'
Irish Examiner



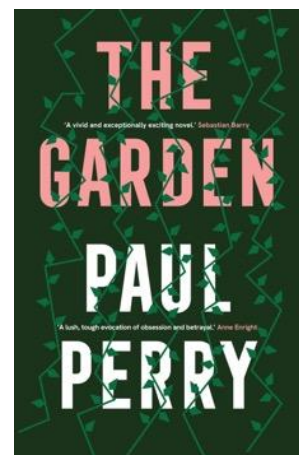
The Garden

Paul Perry

A tense, atmospheric novel of obsession, endangered orchids, and the human cost of power in a Florida ravaged by storm.

Swallow — an undocumented Irish migrant and former marine — works under Blanchard, whose obsession with rare orchids deepens after the arrival of Romeo, a gifted but unsettling Honduran grower. As the men struggle to rebuild the ruined Garden, they pursue the almost mythical ghost orchid, hidden deep in the dangerous Fakahatchee Strand. Their quest forces them into uneasy alliance with Logan, a volatile Seminole man whose loyalties are uncertain and whose pride can ignite violence. As tensions rise, Swallow confronts past trauma, Blanchard loses sight of what matters, and the pursuit of beauty exposes the cost of power, desire, and memory.

'A superb read'
Sunday Independent



Published 2021, 244pp. Rights available: World. Rights sold: Audio.

Perpetual Comedown

Declan Toohey

*'A novel so
unique, so zany'
Irish Independent*

Experimental, trippy, hilarious, compassionate, Perpetual Comedown is a riotous reckoning in the construction of the self.

As a doctoral student at Trinity College Dublin, Darren Walton is trying to decode an elaborate conspiracy he stumbled across as an undergraduate. To do so he must locate an alternate Ireland named Camland, the existence of which is proven when he discovers a literary journal whose contents mirror his own past. With proof of his wild theories, Darren is sure academic fame is imminent. But for this he is willing to sacrifice not just his sanity and physical safety, but also his relationships with the ones who love him most.

In breathless prose, Declan Toohey weaves a contemporary yarn of academic intrigue and youthful irreverence, sexual fluidity and neurodiversity.

Published 2023, 256pp. Rights available: World.

