

Reading in the Dark

By Seamus Deane

In this extraordinary debut, a young boy growing up in Northern Ireland in the 1940s and 1950s picks his way through a minefield of familial and national trauma finally to arrive at a terrible secret that will distort his life forever. At first, the novel seems to move randomly, as the narrator details in luminous, penetrating prose the tragic death of a sibling, conflict with his father, the daily trials and tribulations of church and school, and scrapes with the hated police. But a sense of foreboding overlays every event, and the reason begins emerging out of the beautiful mist of the story: the father's brother Eddie was "executed" as an informer, and his transgression marks the family forever. Then the novel takes one terrific twist after another as we learn that the mother's father ordered the execution, that Eddie was in fact set up, and how other family members are implicated in the tragedy. Here is that rare book that promises to startle you with its revelations-and succeeds.

Available at Wayne in Fiction

Cabbage and Bones: an Anthology of Irish American Women's Fiction

By Caledonia Kearns

Inspired by the historical Irish women's immigration experience and the resulting literature, Kearns has compiled the first collection of Irish American women's fiction. The 24 contributions, from both well-known and obscure authors, are filled with recurring themes of family, immigration, and religion. What makes these stories memorable are the depth and variety of emotions that each writer brings to her subject matter. A true celebration of Irish American women's fiction and an affirmation of this unique perspective in American literature.

Available at Wayne in Fiction under "Cabbage"

Ireland's Love Poems

By A. Norman Jeffares (Editor)

A chorus of Irish voices exalt and bemoan romance in *Ireland's Love Poems*. Major players are here (Jonathan Swift and William Congreve, W.B. Yeats and Samuel Beckett, Paul Muldoon and Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill) along with scores of others from the pagan period to the present day. The tremendous diversity of forms, styles and perspectives gives readers a whirlwind tour of Irish literary history, as well as a long record of the endless search for "a nymph that was chaste, or a swain that was true."

Available at Wayne in Non-Fiction in 821.008 IRE



My Dream of You

By Nuala O'Faolain

Kathleen de Burca is a travel writer based in London. The office is the nearest thing she has to a home. When a quick series of blows strips away the props of her life, she is faced with the frightening imperative of change. In her crisis she decides to investigate a true story about a relationship so passionate that it burned its way across the barriers of class and culture—a scandalous affair between the wife of an English landlord and an Irish servant during the devastation of Ireland's potato famine. After an absence of thirty years, Kathleen returns to Ireland to research the story and begins a journey that leads her not only into the historical past, but into a reconsideration of the family she fled years ago. While back in Ireland, she meets a lover of her own who presents her with a choice that promises to alter the course of her life. As she moves toward her decision, she calls on the strengths of her identity as a woman, an Irish woman, and a woman who is no longer young. Meanwhile, she brings the story of the long-ago lovers to a denouement as tender as it is tragic.

Available at Wayne & Preakness in Fiction



Hidden River

By Adrian McKinty

Alexander Lawson is an ex-detective for Northern Ireland's police force. After a disastrous six-month stint in the drug squad, he became addicted to heroin and resigned in disgrace. Now twenty-four, sickly, and on the dole, Alex learns that his high school love, Victoria Patawasti, has been murdered in America. Victoria's wealthy family sends Alex to Colorado to investigate the case, and he seizes the opportunity for a chance at redemption. But things don't go exactly as planned. Struggling to kick his heroin habit, forced to go on the run after the only credible witness to Victoria's murder is accidentally killed, wanted by both the Colorado cops and the Ulster police who believe he has information about a corruption scandal, and with the murderer closing all the time, Alex will have a fight on his hands just to stay alive, never mind solving the case.

Available at Wayne & Preakness in Fiction

A Great Day for Dying (Danny O'Flaherty series)

By Jonathan Harrington

Saints and sinners. An assassin wearing a leprechaun mask guns down the grand marshal of New York's St. Patrick's Day parade, and it's Danny O'Flaherty's Irish luck to be the only witness. The victim - brash, inflammatory journalist Fintan Conway—had many enemies, but when police accuse Danny's friend and IRA activist Brendan Grady, Danny is determined, despite Grady's refusal of help, to prove his innocence.

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Death of a Joyce Scholar

By Bartholomew Gill

Trinity professor and Joycean scholar Kevin Coyle was one of Dublin's most colorful - and controversial - characters, until someone stabbed him through the heart on Bloomsday, the annual citywide celebration honoring Ireland's most beloved literary light. The poetic irony is not lost on Chief Superintendent Peter McGarr: one of the foremost experts on the works of James Joyce was slain on the so-called "Murderers' Ground" made famous in the author's magnum opus *Ulysses*. But the connection does not end there. And the deeper the intrepid McGarr digs, the more startling truths he uncovers about a victim's dark, licentious history, a list of suspects as vast and varied as the characters in a great novel...and a motive for murder that can hide as easily in the pages of a classic book as in the twisted passions of a human heart.

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The Third Policeman

By Flann O'Brien

This is a brilliantly dark comic novel about the nature of time, death, and existence. Told by a narrator who has committed a botched robbery and brutal murder, the novel follows him and his adventures in a two-dimensional police station where, through the theories of the scientist/philosopher de Selby, he is introduced to "Atomic Theory" and its relation to bicycles, the existence of eternity (which turns out to be just down the road), and de Selby's view that the earth is not round but "sausage-shaped." With the help of his newly found soul named "Joe," he grapples with the riddles and contradictions that three eccentric policeman present to him. The last of O'Brien's novels to be published, this title joins his other fiction to ensure his place, along with James Joyce and Samuel Beckett, as one of Ireland's great comic geniuses.

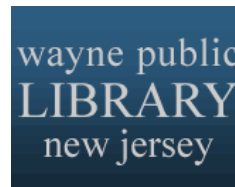
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In the Woods

By Tana French

As dusk approaches a small Dublin suburb in the summer of 1984, mothers begin to call their children home. But on this warm evening, three children do not return from the dark and silent woods. When the police arrive, they find only one of the children gripping a tree trunk in terror, wearing blood-filled sneakers, and unable to recall a single detail of the previous hours. Twenty years later, the found boy, Rob Ryan, is a detective on the Dublin Murder Squad and keeps his past a secret. But when a twelve-year-old girl is found murdered in the same woods, he and Detective Cassie Maddox—his partner and closest friend—find themselves investigating a case chillingly similar to the previous unsolved mystery. Now, with only snippets of long-buried memories to guide him, Ryan has the chance to uncover both the mystery of the case before him and that of his own shadowy past.

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"Writing in English is the most ingenious torture ever devised for sins committed in previous lives."

~ James Joyce

"It is not the literal past, the "facts" of history, that shape us, but images of the past embodied in language."

~ Brian Friel

