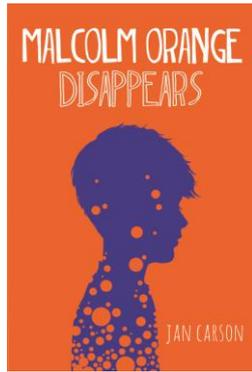


LIBERTIES PRESS

AUTUMN 2015

Fiction



MALCOLM ORANGE DISAPPEARS – Jan Carson

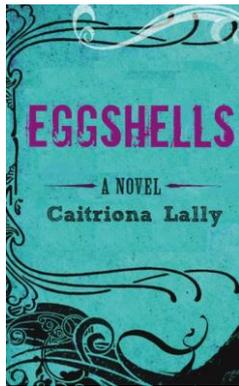
Pub: June 2014, Liberties Press. 224 pp, PB. Rights available: world.

LITERARY FICTION

A highly original debut novel from an author established in the arts and literary scene in Northern Ireland. Sure to attract a devoted following.

Malcolm Orange Disappears introduces us to eleven-year-old Malcom Orange as he struggles to cope with an absent father, an increasingly absent mother, and a childhood spent travelling the highways of America in the back seat of an ancient Volvo. The novel opens one week after Mr Orange abandons his family in a pay-by-the-week motel on the outskirts of Portland and takes off for Mexico. Mrs Orange is devastated and depressed, possibly still suffering the side effects of giving birth to Malcolm's newborn brother Ross in the parking lot of a shopping mall. Malcolm is delighted, anticipating his first permanent home. He coerces his unresponsive mother into taking a job at a local retirement village and as part of her pay the family are allowed to move into Chalet 13, becoming the youngest residents on a cul-de-sac of elderly individuals and couples, each with their own story of loss and survival to share. Two weeks after moving into Chalet 13, Malcolm finds himself covered in tiny, rapidly enlarging holes; he concludes that he is literally disappearing. As his mother is so traumatised that she has lost her grip on English and cannot bring herself to touch her own children, Malcolm is forced to employ the assistance of his elderly neighbours as he embarks upon a quest to find an antidote before he disappears completely.

Jan Carson completed a BA in English Literature in Queens University, Belfast, and a Masters in Literature in Theology and Contemporary Culture. Jan is a Community Arts Development Officer in the Ulster Hall in Belfast. She has led many creative writing workshops and read extensively in Britain, Ireland and the United States. She runs a monthly literary event at the Ulster Hall which has showcased Irish writers such as Jennifer Johnston, Glenn Patterson and Ciaran Carson.



EGGSHELLS – Caitriona Lally

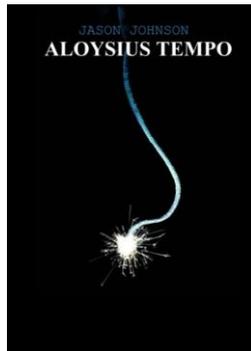
Pub; May 2015, Liberties Press. 224 pp,
PB. Rights available: world

LITERARY FICTION

An innovative, quirky and highly original novel. Lally was winner of the Irish Writers' Centre Novel Fair competition and her short stories have been published in numerous literary journals.

Vivian Lawlor believes she is a changeling. She was left by fairies on Earth, replacing her parents' healthy human child. Now, as an adult, she's trying to get back to the 'otherworld', where she feels she can finally belong. The thing is, Vivian is having some difficulties going back, so she's forced to go about her Earth life in the meantime. Vivian's everyday routine, meticulously mapped out on parchment paper, takes her all over Dublin in her effort to get 'home'. She encounters elves, nosy neighbours, leprechauns, pernickety social workers, smurfs, and her condescending older sister – who is also named Vivian. From making lists in her journal to posting 'wanted' advertisements for a friend named Penelope, Vivian leads an eccentric life. Caitriona Lally offers a witty, exhilarating debut novel in *Eggshells*. Vivian's head is filled to the brim with clever one-liners that leave the people she encounters more than a little confused. Her OCD-like tendencies make her human relationships strained, but she still has the house her Great Aunt Maude left her – as long as she doesn't hurt its feelings.

Caitriona Lally studied English Literature in Trinity College Dublin. She has had colourful employment history, working as an abstract writer and a copywriter alongside working as a home help in New York and an English teacher in Japan. She has travelled extensively around Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and South America. Her essay about Grangegorman appeared in a recent issue of *We Are Dublin*. *Eggshells* was selected as one of 12 finalists in the Irish Writers Centre Novel Fair 2014.



ALOYSIUS TEMPO – Jason Johnson

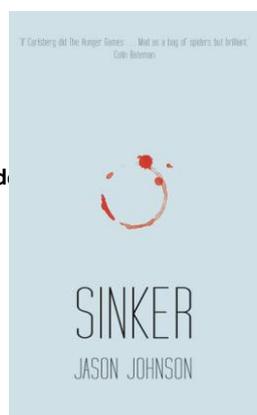
Pub: June 2015, Liberties Press. 220 pp,
PB. Rights available: world

CRIME – THRILLER

He fled a notorious care home in his youth, but now Amsterdam-based hitman Aloysius Tempo is being lured back to Ireland. Ahead of an important anniversary for the state, he becomes part of an extraordinary, murderous PR operation and the Irish government's first paid assassin.

Aloysius Tempo creates 'accidents' that kill. He fled a notorious Irish care home and has built a life as an unarmed hitman, travelling Europe and ending lives for cash. Now veteran government recruiter Imelda wants him back to slay four of the nation's most hated people. It takes time and guile to lure him in, to convince him it's not a trap, not a second betrayal by the powers that be in his own land. And on the cusp of the 1916 anniversary, anti-patriotic Aloysius finds himself a key player in the most extraordinary 'PR operation' in history. A loan shark, a shamed priest, a wildly controversial female politician find themselves in his sights. But when he learns more about the fourth person on the list, everything changes for Aloysius Tempo. Pulsing with taboo passions, humour, hope and bloody horror, this novel rips up the rule book for the government assassin genre.

Jason Johnson is a Northern Ireland-based journalist and author. His debut novel, *Woundlicker* (2005), was a ferociously raw story set in fraught Belfast times. His second book, *Alina* (2006), won him a reputation for his distinctively gritty style of writing. His fourth book, *Sinker* (2014) built on that reputation, with world renowned Colin Bateman hailing it as 'mad as a bag of spiders but brilliant.'

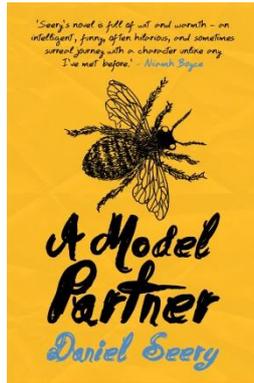


SINKER – Jason Johnson

7, rue d

ance | Tel : +33-(0)1-43-56-21-96 | e-mail : agence@fountlit.com

<http://lorafountainagency.com/>



Pub: June 2014, Liberties Press. 224 pp, PB. Rights available: world

LITERARY FICTION

A highly original and innovative novel which would appeal to fans of Irvine Welsh.

Sinker thrusts us into the story of Ben Baker. He begins the novel as a sweet, unassuming Irish man who is revealed to be a promising newcomer to the world's most controversial sport - professional drinking. Ambition fuels his talent as he strives to make something of his life, but he is plagued by worries that he could die from his job, through alcohol poisoning. Frequent fatalities occur, as players often drop dead during games. When his popularity lands him a spot at the infamous Bullfight competition in sun-baked Mallorca, Baker believes that his luck has turned. But when his drunken eye is drawn to a Saudi beauty, her bodyguard steps over and floors him. The bodyguard's boss – a Saudi oil baron – invites Baker to his magnificent, surreal, Gaudi-designed palace to hear an apology. Baker – joined by his over-ebullient coach Ratface – gets an offer he can't refuse: “Teach the crazy billionaire Sheikh to drink like a pro and in turn he'll make you rich.” Later, as illicit lust flares between Baker and the oil baron's sober wife, he learns the real reason why he has been asked along. It's a set up, and he's about to be framed for killing a Sheikh. After three days of industrial-level drinking and dealing with Ratface's random groping, can Baker break free?

A MODEL PARTNER – Daniel Seery

Pub: Feb 2014, Liberties Press. 224 pp, PB. Rights available: world

LITERARY FICTION

Quirky, innovative and highly original novel which has been compared to Jonas Jonasson's *The Hundred-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window and Disappeared*.

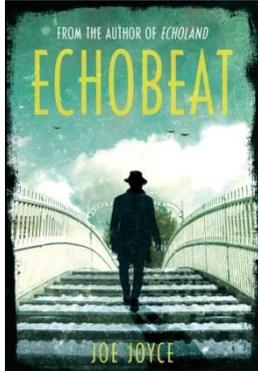
Tom Stacey has moved into his neighbour's bedsit. He wasn't asked. It was just that the door was open and his neighbours have gone on holiday. And it is so much bigger than his own bedsit. Plus, he has a lot to think about these days. The bees for one. He hasn't seen any but he keeps hearing them, buzzing in the fridge at work, in the overhead lights, in the test equipment in the factory where he has spent the last fifteen years of his working life. They seem to be getting louder and more insistent, and they are beginning to affect the way he goes about his business. Then there is his search for Sarah McCarthy to worry about. Sarah was his first love, when as a teenager, he travelled around the country in the back of a horsebox with his grieving grandfather. But perhaps it is not the bees or the past which is the problem. Perhaps it is his ongoing loneliness. 22 dates with Happy Couples dating agency and nothing to show bar a dent in his bank balance and several complaints about 'eccentric behaviour'. Relationships are all about the details and there are just not enough boxes to tick in the Agency's personal profile form. Armed with a wax model and a list of criteria, Tom sets out on a quest to create a personal profile to find his ideal match. On his journey, he will meet people just like him, warm but unable to show it, lonely and unable to remedy it, the lost, the misplaced and damaged.

Daniel Seery is a writer from Dublin. His work has appeared in local and national publications including *The Stinging Fly* and *REA Journal* and he has worked on a number of public arts commissions. In 2012 he was the resident writer in the Axis Centre Ballymun. He has also been shortlisted for a RTÉ drama competition, has recently been one of the winners of the Irish Writers' Centre Novel Fair competition and he has written and directed a play 'The One We Left Behind' which ran in The Irish Writers' Centre in May 2012 and in the Helix in August 2012.

ECHOWAVE – Joe Joyce

Pub: October 2015, Liberties Press. 360 pp, pb. Rights available: world

It's June 1941. Paul Duggan, a young Irish military intelligence officer, is on a secret mission to Portugal to uncover German



intentions towards neutral Ireland and, even more secretly, to find out who had informed the Americans of an Irish Minister's undiplomatic comments while in Lisbon on his way to Washington to plead for arms. Meanwhile, an unmarked American plane crashes in Ireland and its cargo of beer, cigarettes and caviare make their way into the local black market with unforeseen consequences. Then it turns out there was something more than booze on board – a

piece of secret military hardware of great interest to the Germans. Duggan and his colleagues find themselves in a complex game of diplomacy and disinformation as politicians in Ireland and America fall out and the spy agencies of Germany, Britain and the United States manoeuvre for political and military advantage. With the help of his Special Branch friend, Peter Gifford, he tries to unravel the plots and avoid the pitfalls.

To do so he has to return to Lisbon, the war's spy centre, where the interlocking intrigues threaten the future of Ireland's relations with America, put its neutrality at risk, and finally threaten his own life and that of the woman he loves.

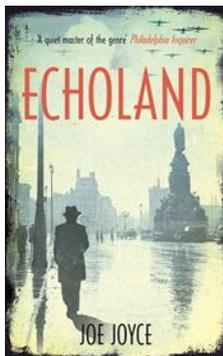
ECHOBEAT – Joe Joyce

Pub: July 2014, Liberties Press. 344 pp, pb. Rights available: world

“ LORA FOUNTAIN & ASSOCIATES LITERARY AGENCY

This fast-paced and gripping novel is politically, historically and factually accurate and details the military and human aspects of conflict in 1940s Ireland. Follow up to ECHOLAND

Christmas 1940. Neutral Ireland is under threat of invasion from Britain and Germany begins the new year with a series of bombing raids on the country. What lies behind these events? Is Berlin trying to send Dublin a message? And, if so, what is it? Paul Duggan and his colleagues in G2, the intelligence unit of the Irish army, have to find out, and find out fast. Misinterpreting messages and responding in the wrong way could be fatal for Ireland's attempts to stay out of the war as Germany is expected to launch a springtime invasion of England. One man who could answer the critical questions is Hermann Goertz, the chief German spy in Ireland, whom G2 has been pursuing for almost a year. Why has he proved to be so elusive? Could he be protected by people in government? The pressure is on to find him now, and find him fast, before events spiral out of control. *Echobeat* is the second book in the Echoland series, which focuses on Paul Duggan and his Special Branch friend Peter Gifford during the treacherous days of the Second World War.



ECHOLAND – Joe Joyce

Pub: August 2013, Liberties Press; 384 pp, pb.

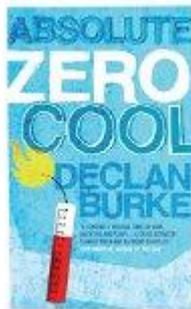
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7, rue de Belfort | 75011 Paris, France | Tel : +33-(0)1-43-56-21-96 | e-mail : agence@fountlit.com

<http://lorafountainagency.com/>

Echoland portrays a nervous and divided Dublin. Some see Britain as an ally, others look to Germany for a hopeful future while some wish to remain as neutral as possible. In this atmosphere of edgy uncertainty, a young lieutenant, Paul Duggan, is drafted into the army's intelligence division, G2, and put on the German desk. Assigned to investigate a German spy who appears to do nothing noteworthy other than write ambiguous letters, Duggan soon gets side-tracked. With a twist that brings Irish politics to the forefront, Duggan attempts to help his uncle, a Fianna Fáil backbench TD, in the search for his missing daughter who has possibly been kidnapped. The young lieutenant delves into the double-dealing worlds of spies and politics, where ruthlessness, deviousness and occasional violence prevail, before confronting a surprising secret that challenges everything he has grown up believing.

Joe Joyce is an Irish writer, playwright and journalist whose latest works include a history of the Guinness family and brewery, *The Guinnesses: The Untold Story of Ireland's Most Successful Family*, and a play about James Joyce and Oliver St John Gogarty, *The Tower*. He is also the author of two thrillers *Off the Record* and *The Trigger Man*, published in London and New York, and co-author with Peter Murtagh of *The Boss*, a seminal book on Irish politics and one of the best-selling non-fiction books published in Ireland. He has worked for a number of national and international newspapers as a staff reporter and freelance journalist, primarily the *Irish Times* in Dublin and *The Guardian* in London.



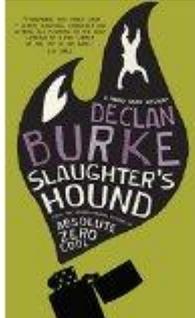
ABSOLUTE ZERO COOL - Declan Burke

Pub: 2011, Liberties Press; 248 pp, pb;
Rights available: world. **Rights sold: TUR**

Who in their right mind would want to blow up a hospital? Billy Karlsson needs to get real. Literally. A hospital porter with a sideline in euthanasia, Billy is a character trapped in the purgatory of an abandoned novel. Deranged by logic, driven beyond sanity. Billy makes his final stand: if killing old people won't cut the mustard, the whole hospital

“ LORA FOUNTAIN & ASSOCIATES LITERARY AGENCY

will have to go up in flames. Only his creator can stop him now, the author who abandoned Billy to his half-life limbo, in which Billy schemes to do whatever it takes to get himself published, or be damned...

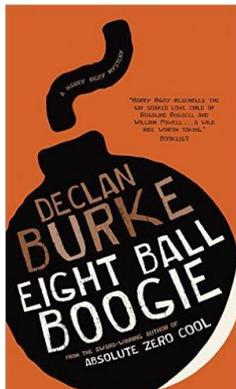


SLAUGHTER'S HOUND - Declan Burke

Pub: 2011, Liberties Press; 384 pp, pb;
Rights available: world. **Rights sold: TUR**

Harry Rigby is right there, an eye-witness, when Finn Hamilton walks out into the big nothing nine stories up but no one wants to believe Finn is just the latest statistic in Ireland's silent epidemic. Not Finn's mother, not Saoirse Hamilton, whose property empire is crumbling around her and not Finn's pregnant fiancé, Maria, or his sister Grainne. And especially not Detective Tohill, the cop who believes Rigby is a stone-cold killer, a slaughter's hound with a taste for blood... Welcome to Harry Rigby's Sligo, where death comes dropping slow.

Declan Burke is the author of four crime novels and received the Goldsboro/Crimefest 'last laugh' award for best humorous crime novel in 2012. He lives in Wicklow, Ireland.



EIGHT BALL BOOGIE - Declan Burke

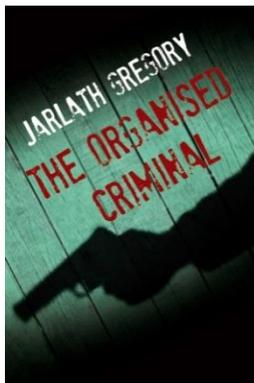
Pub: 2003 and in 2012 by Liberties Press;
288 pp pb; Rights available: world. **Rights sold: TUR, FRA**

A post modern crime thriller from one of Ireland's best crime fiction writers.

Harry Rigby likes a smoke, the easy life, and Robert Ryan playing the bad guy in late night black and white movies. Sweet. But when the

“ LORA FOUNTAIN & ASSOCIATES LITERARY AGENCY

wife of a prominent politician is murdered in her best night, Rigby finds himself caught in the crossfire between rogue paramilitaries, an internal police inquiry and the heaviest blizzard of coke ever to hit the northwest. If all this wasn't bad enough, his relationship with girlfriend Denise is on the rocks and he's hitting the bottle. Then there's Rigby's psychotic brother, Gonzo, back on the streets and meaner than a jilted shark.



THE ORGANISED CRIMINAL – Jarlath Gregory

Pub: April 2015, Liberties Press. 224 pp, PB. Rights available: world

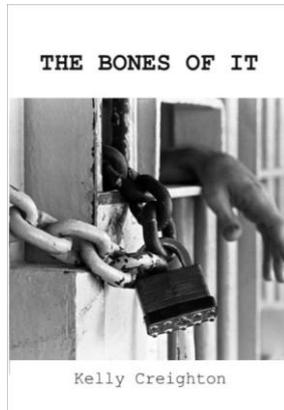
The Organised Criminal looks at the price of morality and the lengths a person will go to for family.

Spiked with black humour throughout, *The Organised Criminal* introduces us to Jay O'Reilly, reluctantly returning to his family home. A childhood steeped in dysfunction, as a result of his family's criminal activity, made O'Reilly determined never to return. Despite his attempts to leave the past behind, Jay comes home to bid a final farewell to his recently-departed cousin Duncan. Though Jay likes to

“ LORA FOUNTAIN & ASSOCIATES LITERARY AGENCY

think he's turned his back on his community, his lost past still holds a bleak fascination for him. His father, a well-known smuggler in the city with a wealthy, far-reaching empire, comes to him with a proposal. As Jay contemplates the job offer *just one last job* he reacquaints himself with the place and the family he left, only to find that it is exactly as hard, cold and unwelcoming as he remembered. With the anxieties and troubles of Northern Ireland as a back drop, Jay's story becomes one of fear, family ties and self-worth. When the truth behind his father's offer is finally revealed, Jay faces the primal struggle between familial bonds and moral obligations. With a comic cynicism, *The Organised Criminal* looks at the fragile security that holds families and communities together. Gregory's wry wit draws on questions of ethics and conscience as well as loyalty and unity. Jay's feelings of loneliness, displacement, dissatisfaction and ultimately, hatred have a universality that connects all audiences in a tale of truth-seeking.

Jarlath Gregory grew up in Crossmaglen, County Armagh. He has previously published *Snapshots* (Dublin, Sitric Books, 2001); and *G. A. A. Y: One Hundred Ways to Love a Beautiful Loser* (Sitric Books, 2005). He lives in Dublin.



THE BONES OF IT – Kelly Creighton

Pub: May 2015, Liberties Press. 240 pp, PB. Rights available: world

A supremely confident and highly original psychological crime thriller.

The Bones of It is a psychological crime thriller set in present day County Down, Northern Ireland. Sixteen years after the Good Friday Agreement, twenty-two-year-

old Scott McAuley, son of ex-paramilitary Duke McAuley, pens diary entries. When Scott is ousted from his politics degree course in Newcastle for joyriding, he returns home to live with Duke for the first time in his memory. When Scott was a baby, loyalist paramilitary Duke was imprisoned for the murders of two young Catholic men and Scott's grandmother, Isla, became his guardian. Living with Duke, who has reformed and become a counsellor, Scott finds it difficult to deal with his father's abrasiveness. Against this background, Scott begins his story by telling us about Klaudia, a Polish woman he worked with after he returned home from Newcastle. He claims that he wants to put his side of the story straight, as we may have read lies about their relationship in the press. Scott, having found a hair in the shower at his home, which he believed to be Klaudia's, had become convinced that Duke and Klaudia are seeing each other, it seems. As the narrative reveals, the twist in the book reveals that Scott is currently in prison, whilst recalling the pivotal moments described that moulded him as a young man.

Kelly Creighton is an arts facilitator and lives in County Down. Her short fiction has been runner-up in the Michael McLaverty Award, the Abroad Writers' Conference Short Short Story Contest, shortlisted for Fish Short Story Prize and longlisted for the 2013 RTÉ Guide/Penguin Ireland Short Story Contest. Her poetry chapbook, *Three Primes*, was published by Lapwing (2013). Her poetry and fiction has featured in: *Litro*, *The Stinging Fly*, *Cyphers*, *Long Story Short*, *The Bohemyth*, *Ink Sweat & Tears*, *Skylight 47* and numerous other places. Creighton was awarded an individual artist grant by Arts Council NI in 2013 and two full bursaries to attend The John Hewitt International Summer School. She also co-founded The Square Circle Writers' group.