



NEW ISLAND
Rights Catalogue 2021

Contact:

New Island Books
Glenshesk House
10 Richview Office Park
Clonskeagh, Dublin
D14V8C4, Ireland
www.newisland.ie

Edwin Higel, Publisher
Email: edwin.higel@newisland.ie

Mariel Deegan, General Manager
Tel: +353 1 278 4225, ext 101
Email: mariel.deegan@newisland.ie

Aoife K. Walsh, Commissioning Editor
Tel: +353 12878 4225, ext 102
Email: aoife.walsh@newisland.ie

2022-2023
FORTHCOMING FICTION

LENNY

Laura McVeigh

*Gorgeously written tale of a young boy and the impact he makes on those around him, responding to the classic **The Little Prince**.*

Ten-year old Lenny wants to save his home, Roseville in Louisiana, from the sinkhole that threatens to destroy it. His parents, Jim and Mari-Rose struggle to care for him and Lenny takes refuge in the story of *The Little Prince*. Because Lenny is also homeless, sleeping rough in the Bayou swampland, and his only true friends are long-retired and long-heartbroken schoolteacher Miss Julie and Lucy, the ever-so-slightly odd town librarian. Venturing deep into the Bayou, Lenny resolves to use his imagination to save his hometown and everyone he loves while readers will pay the ultimate price to set their imagination free.

LAURA McVEIGH is from County Down, Northern Ireland. She is a graduate of Cambridge University and the University of London, an alumna of the Royal Court Theatre Young Writers' Programme and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. Her debut novel was an international bestseller, published in ten languages. Laura lives in Mallorca and London with her family.



March 2022 | 81,000 words
Rights available: World
Rights sold: World English audio

*Praise for **Under the Almond Tree**:*

‘as indispensable as it is timeless... a truly essential read.’

- Irish Independent

‘vivid... memorable... comes brilliantly to life’ - The Irish Times

‘compassionate but uplifting portrayal of resilience in the face of unimaginable suffering.

- The Literary Sofa

SLANT

Katherine O'Donnell

A unique novel spanning Boston and Ireland, focusing on the experience of gay women during and after the AIDS crisis of the 1980s.

Taking its title from Emily Dickinson's poem: 'Tell all the truth but tell it slant —', *Slant* is an historical novel (1986-2015), framed by a love story, rippling with humour and politics.

Slant opens with our protagonist, 22-year-old Corkwoman Ro, an undocumented worker in 1980s Boston. Forced by economic pressure and societal disapproval to leave Ireland, she struggles to find her place in America as an 'illegal alien'. Ro falls for Jenny, an upper-middle class English doctoral student at Harvard.

The narrative then follows Ro's on-going entanglement with Jenny; her relationship with a manipulative older woman; her immersion in AIDS activism as her young gay male friends start to die; and her subsequent move back to her hometown in Cork in the 1990s where she finds a community of beleaguered fellow queers. Ro discards a promising academic career to be a nursing assistant in an elder care centre. Throughout, Jenny and Ro maintain an erotically-charged relationship in spite of their lives taking different paths.

As the novel moves towards its conclusion, we find Ro canvassing door-to-door in advance of the referendum on Marriage Equality in Ireland in 2015, still haunted by her past.



Spring 2023 | 93,000 words
Rights available: World

KATHERINE O'DONNELL was born in Cork and worked briefly as a journalist before going to Boston College on a Fulbright Scholarship. She is Associate Professor for the History of Ideas in University College Dublin. *Slant* is her first novel.

PERPETUAL COMEDOWN

Declan Toohey

A vibrant, dynamic literary debut that blazes off the page, trumpeting a great new talent in Irish literature.

An experimental, trippy, funny, dark investigation into the mental breakdown of a literature student as he attempts to prove the existence of a third narrative dimension!

Doctoral student Darren Walton tries to elucidate an elaborate conspiracy theory he stumbled across as an undergraduate. In doing so, however, he is not only plunged into a dark and dangerous world, but is also forced to acknowledge some unpleasant truths about his personality, privilege, mental health, and general worldview.

Drawing on the author's own experience, the protagonist will ultimately realise he cannot go through this life alone. And that academia isn't all it's cracked up to be...

DECLAN TOOHEY is an Irish writer, who has spent some time living in Prince Edward Island, Canada. His fiction and criticism have appeared in *Soft Punk*, *The Dublin Review of Books*, *Stone of Madness Press*, *The Blue Nib*, *Idle Ink*, and the anthology *Queer Love*, among others. In 2021 he was a co-winner of the Irish Writer's Centre Novel Fair with his manuscript *Perpetual Comedown*. He is currently enrolled on an MFA in University College Dublin.



Spring 2023 | 55,000 words
Rights available: World

2021
FICTION

I, ANTIGONE

Carlo Gébler

Major new retelling of the life and pre-life of Oedipus Rex, as written by his daughter Antigone.

I, Antigone, have closed my eyes.

Set in the seventh century BC, I, ANTIGONE purports to be Antigone's biography of her father, Oedipus, as she attempts to set the record straight on his life and death: beset by forces over which he had no control, it was impossible for him not to have lived and done as he did, that he was not 'bad' but that he was simply human. And in this act of literary labour, she transforms herself into writer and maker, Antigone triggers the final act of her life, her own demise.

Revealing the complex, tragic and surprising backstory of Sophocles' ancient plays, I, ANTIGONE stands for author Carlo Gébler's response to the strange political times we live in: when opinions are polarised and certainties so absolute, Antigone tells us that we are not categorically wrong or right, exclusively pre-programmed or free but rather that we are all and both, we are various.

I, Antigone, have opened my eyes.



September 2021 | 76,000 words
Rights available: World
Rights sold: World English audio

'His finest novel to date, [it] changes the way we read fiction.'
— Gerald Dawe

'Fresh and vital ... a wonderful achievement' — Roddy Doyle

CARLO GÉBLER is a novelist, biographer, playwright, memoirist, critic and occasional broadcaster. His novels include *The Cure*, *How to Murder a Man* and *The Innocent of Falkland Road*. He is an expert at adapting classic literature for a modern readership, while maintaining, even enhancing, the integrity of the original, including his 2019 retelling of *Aesop's Fables*.

WE SELDOM TALK ABOUT THE PAST

Selected Stories

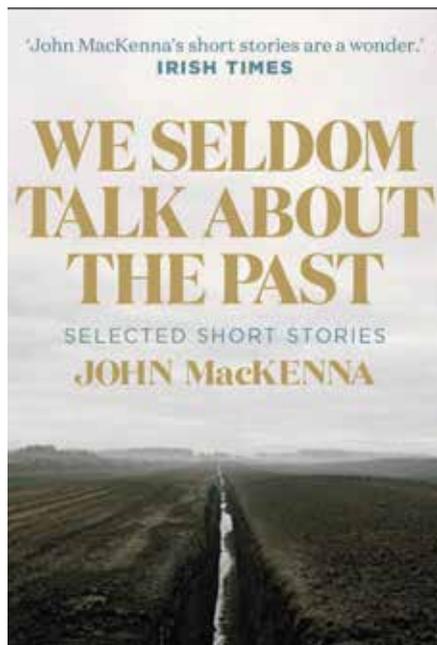
John MacKenna

A new selection of short stories from one of Ireland's finest writers.

WE SELDOM TALK ABOUT THE PAST is John MacKenna's first selected collection of short stories, from a career spanning over three decades. The stories selected come from four collections of short fiction, and represent a culmination of MacKenna's work in a form of writing he has made uniquely his own.

Often compared to John McGahern, and Raymond Carver, and deeply influenced by masters of the form such as Chekhov, MacKenna's stories focus on the quotidian truths of our lives, of the momentousness of small moments, of sexual desire and its intimate entanglement with the domestic, of deeply felt absences and social mores, and always at the heart of his work, the sense of place, often the rural, and the acute receptiveness of our lives to the places we inhabit.

JOHN MACKENNA is the author of fifteen books – novels, short-story collections, memoir, poetry and biography – and a number of radio and stage plays. He is a winner of *The Irish Times*, Hennessy and Cecil Day-Lewis Awards.



August 2021 | 70,000 words
Rights available: World

‘A consummately skilled author.’
– *The Guardian*

‘John MacKenna’s short stories are a wonder.’ – *The Irish Times*

‘MacKenna is McGahern’s inheritor; he harvests and hoards his words, knowing their nuance, their gram-weight worth.’
– *Scotland on Sunday*

WORDS TO SHAPE MY NAME

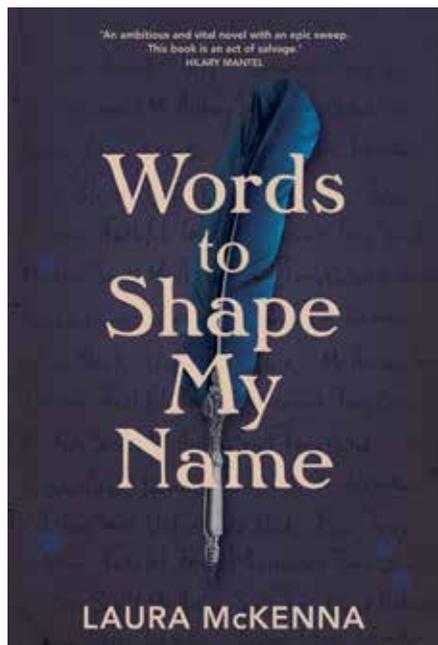
Laura McKenna

‘An ambitious and vital novel with an epic sweep ... This book is an act of salvage, performed with great skill: cleanly written, sharp-eyed, undeceived.’ – Hilary Mantel

London, 1857. Harriet Small has been left an unusual collection of papers: her father Tony’s *True Narrative* of his life after escaping slavery and his journey into the heart of Revolutionary Ireland.

Nearly sixty years earlier, ‘Faithful’ Tony’s pages show a complex, co-dependent and sometimes turbulent friendship with his master, Lord Edward FitzGerald. With Edward, Tony had hoped to begin a new life – to belong – only to find himself a stranger in a strange land who often comprehends better than his employer the racism, privilege and power that drive the inequalities of their time. As historical events gallop towards their devastating conclusion, Tony learns that the sacrifices to be free are never-ending. And as difficult and heartbreaking as it is to read her father’s story, Harriet comes to realise there is more than one way to be free.

From war in South Carolina to genteel drawing rooms in Kildare, *Words to Shape My Name* is an adventurous novel about hope, failure and resilience and the importance and power of storytelling.



February 2021 | 115,000 words
Rights available: World excl. USA.

‘*Words to Shape My Name* unspools a complex story in a daring and ambitious style reminiscent of Joseph O’Connor and Hilary Mantel. By turns demanding, lucid and poignant, McKenna’s debut is the song of a writer who is here to stay.’ – Colum McCann

LAURA MCKENNA is a writer of fiction and poetry. She has a PhD in Creative Writing. *Words to Shape my Name* was a finalist at the 2020 Novel Fair and longlisted for the 2019 Bath Novel Award.

THE GARDEN

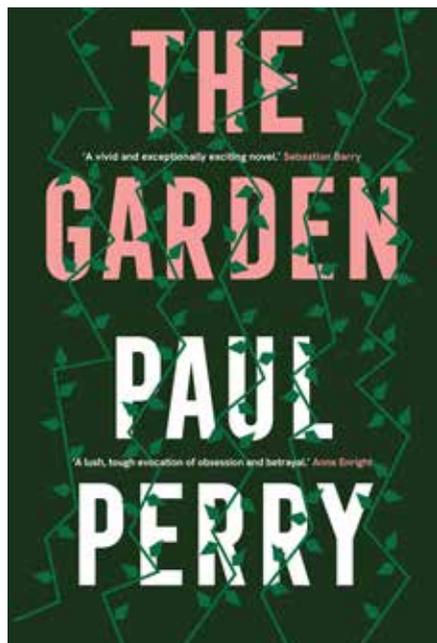
Paul Perry

The Garden is dying.

Once an Edenic orchid farm, it has been decimated by the worst hurricane in Florida's living memory. Its glasshouses are shattered, the surrounding mangroves encroach, and its men are dangerously idle. When Romeo – an expert breeder of the endangered ghost orchid – arrives from Honduras, boss Blanchard and his Irish lieutenant, Swallow, believe their fortunes are on the up.

Romeo may not be what he seems though, and Swallow can sense the newcomer shaking the Garden's creaking hierarchy. The ghost orchid they seek is infamously rare, a delicate and wildly valuable species, hidden deep in the treacherous cypress swamps of the Fakahatchee Strand. To capture the ghost, Blanchard and Swallow must strike a deal with Logan, a dangerously unpredictable member of the local Seminole tribe, whose wounded pride, and simmering ebb of violence threaten to uproot any hope of success.

The Garden is the first solo novel by PAUL PERRY, formerly one half of the international bestselling thriller-writing duo Karen Perry and an award-winning poet. In this modern fable, Perry tells of smothering power, loyalty and agency thwarted by the tragic patterns of memory and behaviour.



May 2021 | 65,000 words
Rights available: World (print and ebook)
Rights sold: World English audio

‘With an impressive atmosphere of Conradian disquiet, this is a vivid and exceptionally exciting novel.’
– Sebastian Barry

‘a gripping and finely calibrated morality fable with dark slippery textures.’
– Sunday Independent

‘A lush evocation of obsession and betrayal’ – Anne Enright

‘Part modern parable, part noirish thriller, *The Garden* is an intriguing, atmospheric read where you can almost taste the salty sweat on every page.’
– Sunday Business Post

2020
KEY TITLES

SECRETS NEVER TOLD

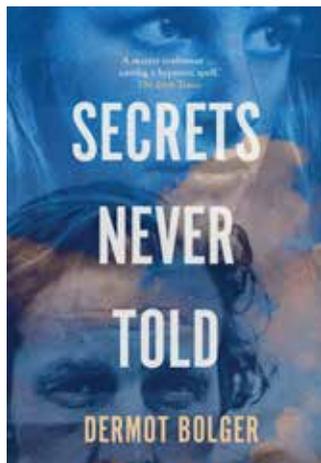
Dermot Bolger

In his first collection of short stories, bestselling Irish novelist Dermot Bolger delves into secrets that bind families together or tear them apart, creating worlds where people find that nothing is truly certain, there are always unknowable secrets just beyond reach that would make sense of their lives if they only know how to unlock them.

‘Bolger writes with great intuition about the secrets and lies that circulate beneath the surface of our everyday lives.’ – *Sunday Business Post*

‘[His] craft has been carved to precision by time’ – *Irish Independent*

‘A taut collection of stories delivered with precision and poise.’ – *The Irish Times*



September 2020

256pp

Rights available: World print and ebook

Rights sold: World English audio

TALES WE TELL OURSELVES

A Selection from The Decameron

Carlo Gébler

‘Memento vivere – remember that you must live – is the message of the *Decameron*.’

– *The New York Times*

Six centuries on from the Black Death – the plague that gave inspiration to Giovanni Boccaccio’s masterpiece – we are in the midst of another pandemic. The mortality rates may not be the same but the psychological toll is not so dissimilar. As the virus subdues and suborns our psyches, and dampens our sense of ourselves as being fully human, a text by a writer who believes stories can help to restore what is damaged, what is stifled by pandemic, may be just what we need.

‘More than a tract for the times – it is a wonderful work of narrative fiction in its own right.’ – *John Banville*



November 2020

374pp

Rights available: World

A QUIET TIDE

Marianne Lee

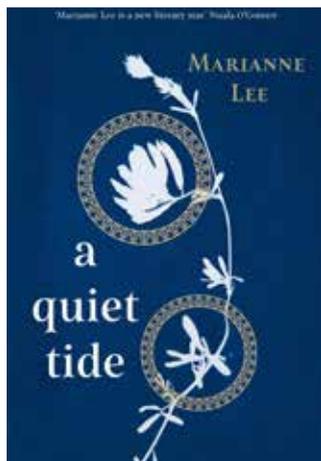
‘Marianne Lee is a new literary star.’

– Nuala O’Connor

At the time of her death in 1815, twenty-nine-year-old Ellen Hutchins had catalogued over a thousand species of seaweed and plants from her native Bantry Bay. Ireland’s first female botanist, Ellen was a major contributor to nineteenth-century scientific discovery. And yet, like so many brilliant women lost in history, it is her personal story that will resonate today.

‘A writer of substance & intelligence She is canny in what she puts in & wise in what she leaves out, so that Ellen’s fate haunts the reader’

– *Sunday Business Post*



May 2020

396pp

Rights available: World print and ebook

Rights sold: World English audio, Persian

VOICES

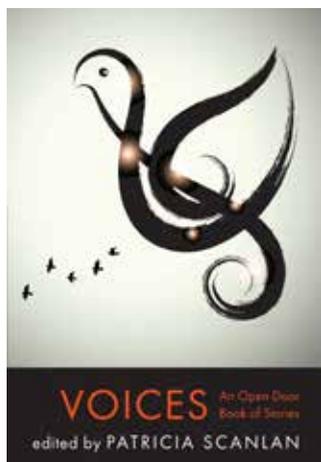
An Open Door Book of Stories

Patricia Scanlan (Ed)

The Open Door series of easy reader novellas by well-known Irish writers has found audiences across the globe in the two decades since it began. In this our first collection of stories, we have gathered a range of voices to suit every taste. With themes ranging from family and friendship to ageing, love and childhood, there is something for everyone. So come on in...

Featuring writing from:

Blindboy Boatclub, Dermot Bolger, Marita Conlon-McKenna, Sinéad Crowley, Martina Devlin, Roddy Doyle, Christine Dwyer Hickey, Rachael English, Patrick Freyne, Yan Ge, Carlo Gébler, Ciara Geraghty, Ruth Gilligan, Emily Hourican, Úna-Minh Kavanagh, Louise Kennedy, Sinéad Moriarty, Graham Norton, Nuala O’Connor, Roisín O’Donnell, Sheila O’Flanagan, Colm O’Regan, Paul Perry, Deirdre Purcell, Donal Ryan, Patricia Scanlan, Melatu Uche Okorie



September 2020

208pp

Rights available: World

IN HER SHOES

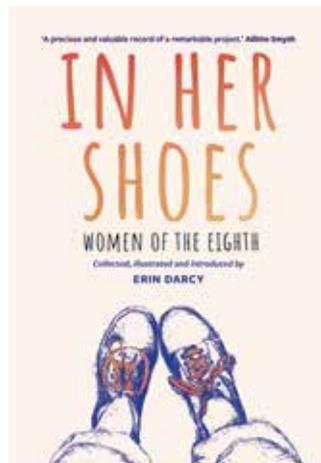
Women of the Eighth

Erin Darcy

‘These are real stories, real women, real bodies, real lives. This could be my story, my body, my life too. Our stories keep us alive.’ – *Totally Dublin*

In the few months before the referendum to repeal the ban on abortion in Ireland, Erin Darcy’s Facebook page, *In Her Shoes*, gained 100,000 followers and reached 4 million readers a week. It platformed anonymised stories of women who had been forced to travel outside the State for terminations.

In Her Shoes: Women of the Eighth reproduces 32 of those anonymous stories, representing the entire island of Ireland. Published with their authors’ consent and illustrated by Erin, they are powerful testimonies to storytelling as salvation from heartache and stigma.



September 2020

256pp

Rights available: World print and ebook

Rights sold: World English audio

PEACE AFTER THE FINAL BATTLE

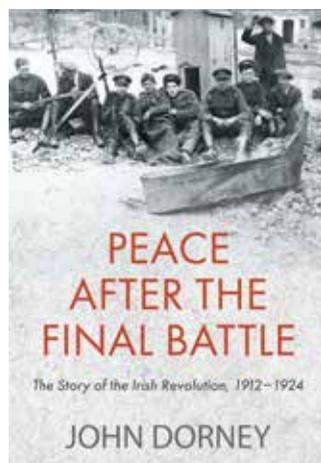
The Story of the Irish Revolution, 1912-1924

John Dorney

Within the space of just a dozen years, Ireland was completely transformed. From being a superficially loyal part of the British Empire, it emerged as a self-governing state. How and why did Ireland go from welcoming royalty in 1912 to independence in 1922?

In this exciting new updated edition, drawing on new research and the most recent material in this field, historian John Dorney examines the roots of the revolution, using the experiences of the men and women of the time.

As Ireland approaches a re-appraisal of the Civil War it has never truly confronted, John Dorney’s engaging history of those years – now in paperback for the first time – is a must read.



September 2020

382pp

Rights available: World

KEY BACKLIST

ARE YOU SOMEBODY?

Nuala O'Faolain

Introduction by June Caldwell

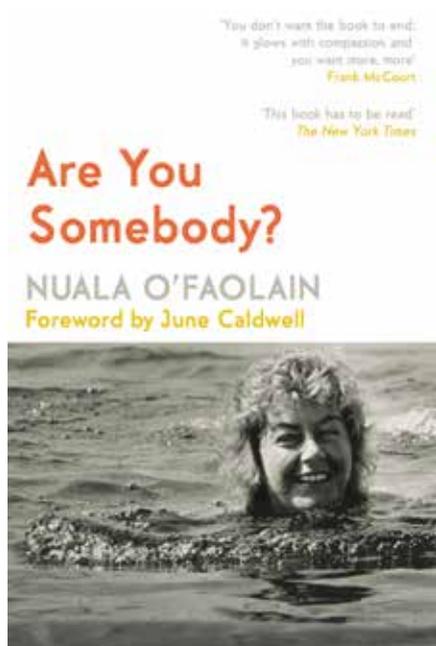
'This book has to be read'

- The New York Times

Are You Somebody? is the incredibly candid story of Nuala O'Faolain, born one of nine children into the penniless family of an overwhelmed mother and charming but absent father.

Nuala O'Faolain was saved from a harrowing childhood by her love of books and reading. Though she ultimately became one of Ireland's best-known columnists, her professional success did little to ease her longing for a deep connection to the world. She pushed at the boundaries of the confining Catholic Ireland she grew up in and has distilled her experiences into a wisdom that could come only from a woman who refused to shrink from life. A runaway international best-seller, it was No. 1 on *The New York Times* best seller list.

A strikingly vivid and starkly emotional memoir, *Are You Somebody?* is, like O'Faolain herself, a singular example of courage, honesty, and bold living.



First published 1996

New commemorative edn 2018

Rights available: World excl. French and USA

'A rich, fierce memoir'

- The New Yorker

'An astonishing book...a classic'

- Times Literary Supplement

'A beautiful exploration of human loneliness and happiness of contentment and longing'

- Washington Post

THE LONELY SEA AND SKY

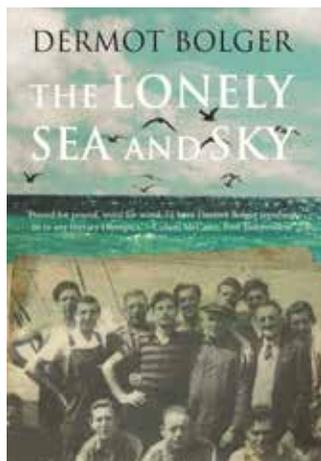
Dermot Bolger

‘Pound for pound, word for word, I’d have Bolger represent us in any literary Olympics.’

– Colum McCann

‘the way he smuggles ‘the bigger themes’ into the narrative hull ... grants this historical fiction “modern classic” status.’ – *Irish Independent*

Part historical fiction, part extraordinary coming-of-age tale, *The Lonely Sea and Sky* charts the maiden voyage of 14-year-old Jack Roche aboard a tiny Wexford merchant ship, on a treacherous wartime journey to Portugal.



2016, 400pp

Rights available: World

AN ARK OF LIGHT

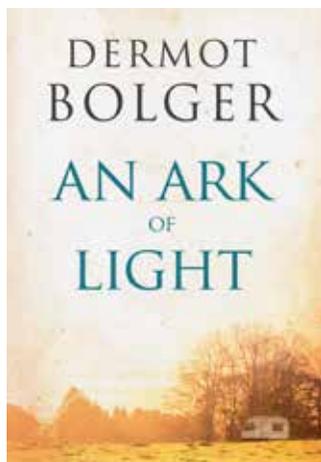
Dermot Bolger

‘unrivalled eloquence.’ – *Sunday Independent*

‘Dermot Bolger is fast attaining the status of national treasure.’ – *Sunday Business Post*

Eva Fitzgerald defies convention in 1950s Ireland by leaving a failed marriage to embark on an extraordinary journey of self-discovery. It takes her from teeming Moroccan streets and being flour-bombed in radical marches in London to living in old age in a caravan that becomes an ark for all those whom she befriends amid the fields of Mayo.

This standalone novel completes the real-life story of the unforgettable heroine of Bolger’s bestselling *The Family on Paradise Pier*, in following a free spirit trying to hold her family together while striving to be happy.



2018, 400pp

Rights available: World

Rights sold: French

THE BIG YAROO

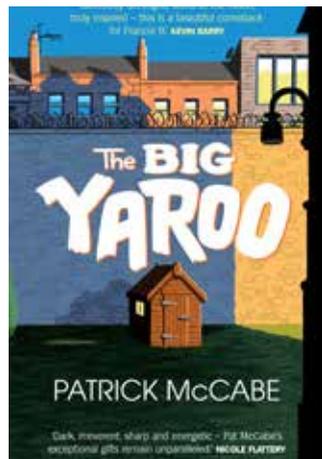
Patrick McCabe

‘Dark, irreverent, sharp and energetic—Pat McCabe’s exceptional gifts remain unparalleled.’

— Nicole Flattery

‘Gloriously deranged, wired to the moon, truly inspired—this is a beautiful comeback for Francie B.’ — Kevin Barry

Francie Brady, the broken Butcher Boy, leads a busy life in Fizzbag Mansions, where he was incarcerated five decades ago after the mistake with Mrs Nugent. Still obsessed with the comic books of his childhood, he has found a new vocation – as a publisher of his very own magazine, *The Big Yaroo*, and Francie throws himself into its production, working to a deadline in more ways than one. Uproariously funny, terrifying and profound, this is the swansong of one Irish literature’s most enduring characters.



2019, 256pp

Rights available: World

HEARTLAND

Patrick McCabe

‘[McCabe] is the fortunate possessor of a savage and unfettered imagination; his books ... dissect life’s miseries with a gleaming comedic scalpel’

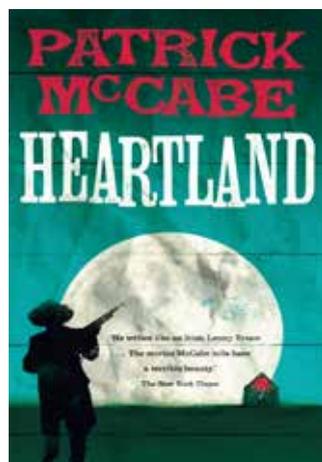
– *The Times*

‘A sort of Beckettian *Reservoir Dogs*: full of menacing patter and gold teeth glinting in the moonlight.’ – *The Irish Times*

‘He writes like an Irish Lenny Bruce ... and somehow it all makes sense ... The stories McCabe tells have a terrible beauty.’

– *The New York Times*

A backwoods sinfonia of rough poetry and black comedy about the love we give and the horror we visit upon one other – and ourselves.



2018, 324pp

Rights available: World

HARVESTING

Lisa Harding

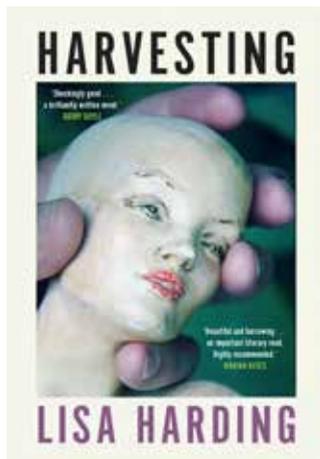
Film in development.

Winner of Kate O'Brien Award 2018

‘Impressive and profoundly moving. It’s a harrowing read, but is never gratuitous.’ – *Irish Examiner*

‘Shockingly good’ – *Roddy Doyle*

Sammy is a spiky, quick-witted and sharp teenager living in Dublin; Nico is a warm and conscientious girl from Moldova. When they are thrown together in a Dublin brothel in a horrific twist of fate, a peculiar and important bond is formed ...



2018, 372pp
Rights available: World, ex
North America
Rights sold: French, Film

BEAUTIFUL PICTURES OF THE LOST HOMELAND

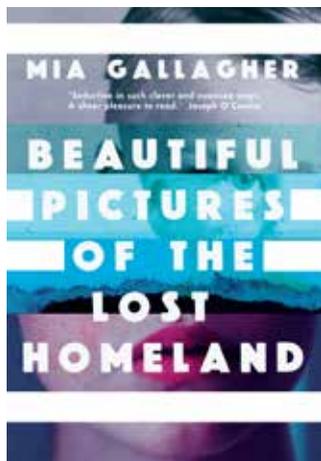
Mia Gallagher

Mia Gallagher’s tour-de-force ‘is the Irish novel whose reputation will grow in the coming years’
– *Mike McCormack*

‘a massively ambitious novel ... it’s hard to better.’

– *Sunday Independent*

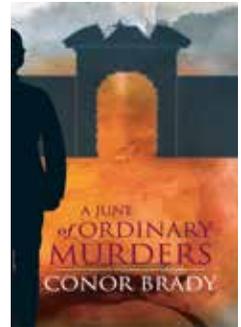
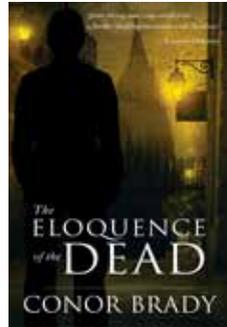
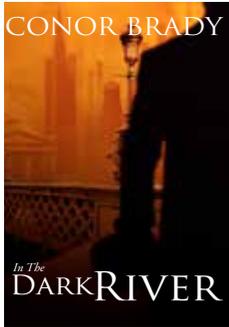
A bomb blast in the London Underground rips through space and time, unearthing four stories that whirl, collide and pass each other by, from the present day, when transsexual Georgia Madden flees her Dublin home, to the 1970s, when Madden family begins to disintegrate and a disruptive stranger arrives who will bind them, briefly.



2016, 494pp
Rights available: World

THE JOE SWALLOW SERIES

Conor Brady



‘Like a road movie set in your neighbourhood, it delivers a thrilling sense of the familiar lit with the profane.’ – *Sunday Independent*

2018, 304pp

Rights available: World

In The Dark River

The fall of Charles Stewart Parnell and the collapse of the Irish struggle for Home Rule form the political background to the fourth Joe Swallow novel. As Swallow and his colleagues grapple with two challenging murder cases, they must also struggle to contain the extremists who believe that the only course now is renewed violence.

2016, 346pp

Rights available: World
excl. N. America

A Hunt in Winter

In Dublin, a series of violent attacks against women leads to an outbreak of panic and fear, and things on the home front are about to change in an unexpected way. Meanwhile, the British are eager to discredit the Irish parliamentary leader Parnell, and Swallow's conflicted loyalties pull him in different directions.

2013, 373pp

Rights available: World
excl. N. America

The Eloquence of the Dead

When a Dublin Pawnbroker is found murdered and the lead suspect goes missing, Sergeant Joe Swallow is handed the poisoned chalice of the investigation. Under pressure from the authorities, the public and the press, Swallow must use every trick in his arsenal to crack the case.

2012, 351pp

Rights available: World
excl. N. America

A June of Ordinary Murders

Dublin, June 1887: the mutilated bodies of a man and a child are discovered in Phoenix Park and Detective Sergeant Joe Swallow steps up to investigate. Cynical and tired, Swallow is a man living on past successes in need of a win.



MODERN IRISH CLASSICS

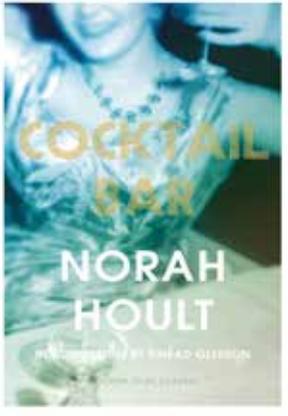
Corporatisation and globalisation have brought about some serious trends in publishing: what gets published, and what remains in print, is increasingly determined by 'bean counters'. One can't ignore the commercial realities of commissioning and stock management, but there is still a lot of leeway if one is prepared not to chase record breaking margins at all times.

New Island therefore decided to launch their Modern Irish Classics in attempt to bring back or to retain in print work where our extended editorial board feels there is an ongoing interest in writers and works who would otherwise be condemned to obscurity.

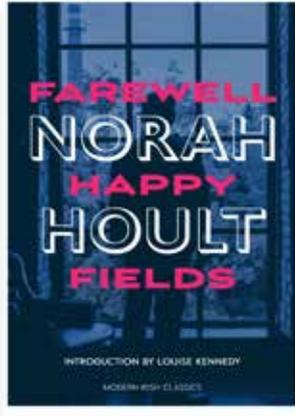
We were very encouraged by record breaking Irish sales for Sinéad Gleeson's *The Long Gaze Back*. This book has managed to highlight the role of women writers in Irish literature over recent centuries, so much so that in a number of cases the extended work of these writers found their way back into print in our series, Nora Hoult and Mary Lavin being outstanding examples.

There is no assumption whatsoever that Modern Irish Classics are the nucleus of a revised canon of Irish literature. Just look at it as the recommendation of a bunch of literary activists and enthusiasts whose suggestions you will hopefully enjoy.

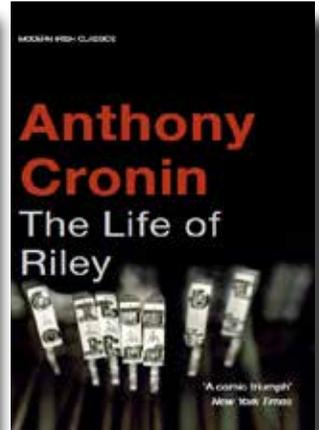
Edwin Higel,
Publisher



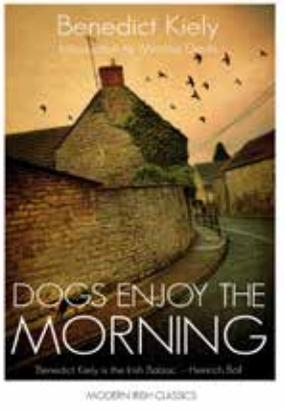
Cocktail Bar
 Nora Houl
 Intro by Sinéad Gleeson
 Rights: World
 Rights sold: Italian



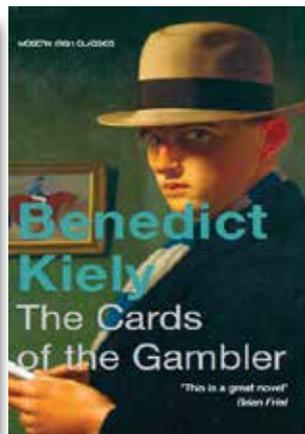
Farewell Happy Fields
 Nora Houl
 Intro by Louise Kennedy
 Rights: World



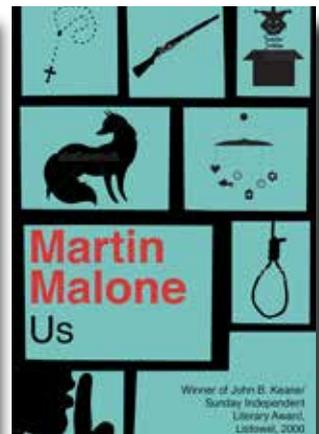
The Life of Riley
 Anthony Cronin
 Rights: World



Dogs Enjoy the Morning
 Benedict Kiely
 Intro by Martina Devlin
 Rights: World



The Cards of the Gambler
 Benedict Kiely
 Rights: World



Us
 Martin Malone
 Rights: World