

Feedback Form

Your opinion matters to us. So, please complete and return this page to your **local library, by post or by hand, and by early September.**

(1) Tell us what you think of our Summer Reading List 2013

(2) Is there a title that was not included, which we should include in next year's List?

(3) What for you was the standout "**must read**" book this Summer?

Thank you for completing our feedback form.
It will help us make next year's Summer List even better.



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Want whatever she's Reading?



Get Cavan Library's Great Summer Reads 2013

Summer starts with our Reading List!



This is our 9th Summer Reading List and – even if we say so ourselves – it gets better every year. Or so our users tell us!

Our Summer Reading List is the best choice of “Great Reads” which Cavan librarians, who are passionate about literature **and** reading, have handpicked for you! Thank you to our Library Reading Group members who also suggested some great titles. Guiding people to great reads is our daily task and one we take very seriously. One of the most interesting things about producing this list is the many titles that we left out during the whittling down process.

We want you to enjoy our 2013 list - 36 titles with something for everyone. Tell us what you think by completing our feedback form on the back cover OR by visiting our Great Reads Blog on www.cavanlibrary.ie. Bad or good, we want to know. We look forward to hearing from you.

Novels, memoirs and some nonfiction titles feature. For the first time we have included our choice of the best “As Gaeilge” Reads. Why not take up our challenge and make one of your Summer Reads an “As Gaeilge” title – even a short story?

A truly international flavour sees Irish writers sitting side by side with English and American writers. Award-winners are coupled with titles that are not at all well-known. All are gifts to the reader, and deserve to be shared.

Cavan Library Staff hope you enjoy your summer and manage to escape the Irish weather with our great reads!

Josephine Brady
County Librarian

Take up our challenge!

Make one of your Summer Reads an “As Gaeilge” title



Aiséirí le Alex Hijmans

Teach caifé é Aiséirí i gcathair na Gaillimhe. Trí shúile Rebekka a fhaighimid spléachadh úr ar shaol na Gaillimhe. Is ina measc siúd a chaitheann sí léargas níos iomláine a fháil uirthi féin agus ar an méid a thug go Gaillimh an chéad uair í.

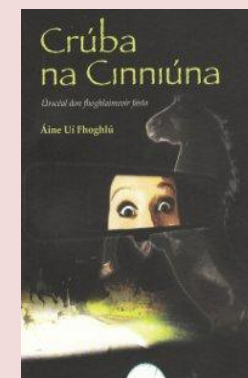
Rebekka is a young artist from the Netherlands who comes to work in a cafe Aiséirí in Galway city, it proves an eye opener for her as she reflects on her own life and that which brought her to the city initially.



Bróga Páipéir agus Stocáí Bainne Ramhair le Pádraic Breathnach (eag.)

Is ó Mhicheál Breathnach, nó Michael Phatch, as Gleann Mhac Muirinn i gConamara, a bailíodh na scéalta seo. Tá dhá dhlúthdhiosca ag dul leis an leabhar a bhfuil na scéalta "Loinnir Mac Leabhair" agus "Gruagach na gCleas" le cloisteáil orthu, á n-aithris ag Michael Phatch.

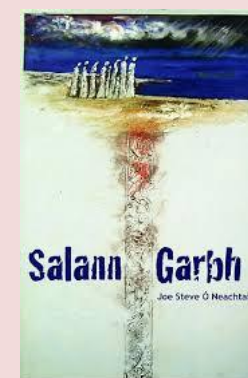
There are seventeen stories in the book, tales of wonder and magic, brimming with kings, queens, princes, princesses, orphans, talking animals, heroes and warriors.



Crúba na Cinniúna Úrscéal don fhoghlaimoir fásta Áine Uí Fhoghlú

Is múinteoir óg í Siobhán atá ag éirí bréan dá post. Oíche amháin agus í ag tiomáint abhaile ar an bhóthar tuaithe tarlaíonn eachtra uafáis di a chuireann athrú go deo ar a saol.

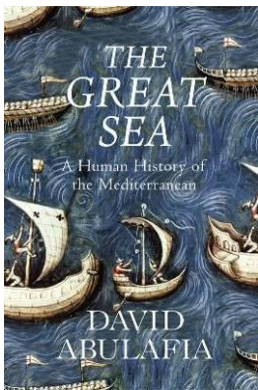
Siobhán is a young teacher and she is getting very tired of her job. One night as she was driving home on her country road something awful happens that changes her life forever.



Salann Garbh le Joe Steve Ó Neachtáin

Tá blas an dúchais ar an saothar seo agus téann sé i ngleic le gnéithe dorcha, pearsanta an tsaoil go cliste.

Important social and moral questions are expressed and examined through small local events in this collection of short stories from Joe Steve Ó Neachtáin, from domestic violence and faith to lineage and land ownership.



The Great Sea: a human history of the Mediterranean by David Abulafia (2011)

A fascinating study of the Mediterranean, full of stories pulled from the flotsam and jetsam of the past. For over three thousand years, the Mediterranean Sea has been one of the great centres of world civilisation. From the time of historical Troy until the middle of the 19th century, human activity here decisively shaped much of the course of world history. A mesmerising story, teeming with colourful characters from the Professor of Mediterranean History at the University of Cambridge.

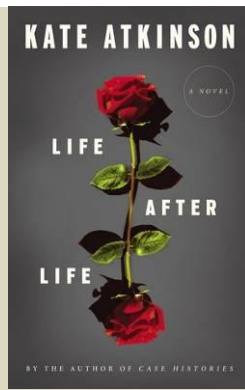
Non-Fiction Reading Group Recommendation



Mornings in Jenin by Susan Abulhawa (2011)

Palestine, 1948. A mother clutches her six-month old son as Israeli soldiers march through the village of Ein Hod. In a split second, her son is snatched from her arms and the fate of the Abulheja family is changed forever. Forced into a refugee camp in Jenin and exiled from the ancient village that is their lifeblood, the family struggles to rebuild their world. Their stories unfold through the eyes of the youngest sibling, Amal, the daughter born in the camp: the eldest son who loses everything in the struggle for freedom and the stolen son who grows up as an Israeli.

Reading Group Recommendation



Life after Life by Kate Atkinson (2013)

What if you had the chance to live your life again and again, until you finally got it right? During a snowstorm in England in 1910, a baby is born and dies before she can take her first breath. What if there were an infinite number of chances to live your life? Would you eventually be able to save the world from its own inevitable destiny? Life After Life follows Ursula Todd as she lives through the turbulent events of the last century again and again. With wit and compassion, Kate Atkinson finds warmth even in life's bleakest moments, and shows an extraordinary ability to evoke the past.

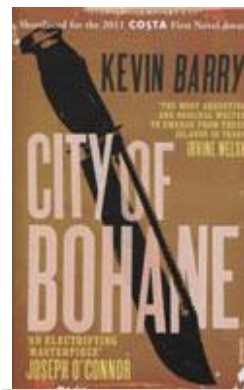
Shortlisted for Women's Prize for Fiction 2013



The Detour by Gerbrand Bakker (2012)

Emilie, a Dutch woman rents a remote farm in rural Wales. She has left her husband, having confessed to an affair. In Amsterdam, her stunned husband forms a strange partnership with a detective who agrees to help him trace her. They board the ferry to Hull on Christmas Eve. Back on the farm, a young man out walking with his dog injures himself and stays the night, then ends up staying longer. Yet something is deeply wrong. Does he know what he is getting himself into? And what will happen when her husband and the detective arrive?

Winner of the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize 2013

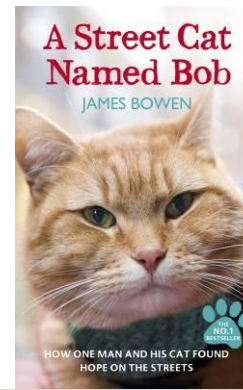


City of Bohane by Kevin Barry (2012)

The once great city of Bohane on the west coast of Ireland in on its knees. Infested by vice and split along tribal lines, there are still some posh parts of town but it is in the slums and backstreets of Smoketown, the tower blocks of the Northside rises and the eerie bogs of big nothin' that the city really lives. For years, Bohane has been in the cool grip of Logan Hartnett, the dapper godfather of the Hartnett fancy gang. But now they say his old nemesis is back in town; his trusted henchmen are getting ambitious and there's trouble in the air.

Hughes & Hughes Irish Novel of the Year Award, 2011

Costa First Novel Award, 2011



A street cat named Bob by James Bowen (2012)

When James Bowen found an injured, ginger street cat curled up in the hallway of his sheltered accommodation, he had no idea just how much his life was about to change. James was living hand to mouth on the streets of London, yet he couldn't resist helping the strikingly intelligent tom cat, whom he christened Bob. He nursed Bob back to health and soon the two became inseparable. Their diverse, comic and occasionally dangerous adventures would transform both their lives, slowly healing the scars of each other's troubled pasts.

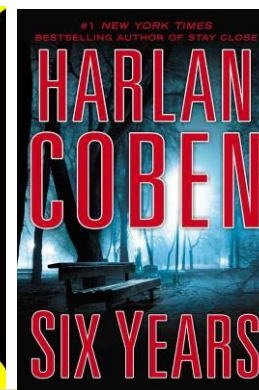
Memoir Reading Group Recommendation



Gold by Chris Cleave (2013)

Kate and Zoe are friends but also ardent rivals - athletes at the top of their game, fighting to compete in the world's greatest sporting contest. Each scarred by tragedy, and each with a great deal to lose, they must choose between family and glory and ask themselves: what will I sacrifice? GOLD captures the extraordinary effort and dedication that go into the pursuit of victory. But this life-affirming novel is about more than sport. It is about human endurance, motherhood and love, and what enables us all, in our different ways, to achieve the remarkable.

Richard & Judy Book club, 2013

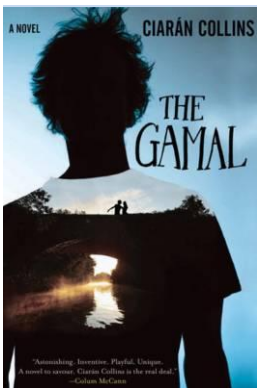


Six years by Harlan Coben (2013)

Six years ago Jake Sanders watched Natalie, the love of his life, marry another man. Six years of tortured dreams of her life with her new husband, Todd.

But when Jake comes across Todd's obituary, he can't keep away from the funeral. There he sees Todd's wife . . . but she is not Natalie. As Jake searches for the truth, his memories begin to unravel. No one has seen Natalie in years. Jake's search for the woman who broke his heart - and who lied to him - soon puts his life at risk.

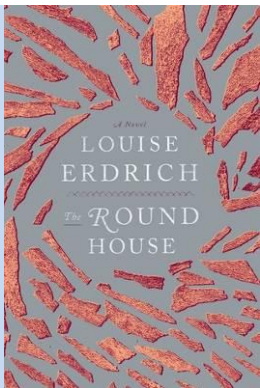
Crime Fiction



The Gamal by Ciarán Collins (2013)

Meet Charlie. People think he's crazy. But he's not. People think he's innocent... He's the Gamal. Charlie has a story to tell, about the bad things that happened. But he can't tell it yet, not until he's worked out where the beginning is. He has promised Dr Quinn to write 1,000 words a day, but it's hard to know which words to write. And which secrets to tell...

This is the story of the dark heart of an Irish village, of how daring to be different can be dangerous and how there is nothing a person will not do for love. Bitingly funny and poignant, this is a story



The Round House by Louise Erdrich (2012)

Spring 1988, a woman living on a reservation in North Dakota is brutally raped. Geraldine Coutts is reluctant to reveal what happened. Her 13th-year-old son, Joe finds himself thrust prematurely into an adult world for which he is ill prepared. While his father searches for justice, Joe becomes frustrated with the investigation and sets out with his trusted friends to get some answers of his own. Their quest takes them first to the Round House, a sacred space and place of worship. A powerful and deeply humane story of a young boy thrown into an unjust adult world.

Winner of the National Book Awards, 2012

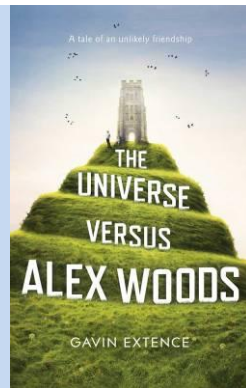
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Going Back by Rachael English (2013)

Summer 1988, Elizabeth Kelly and her friends leave recession-hit Ireland for a summer in Boston. A summer which changes all of them, especially Elizabeth. She surprises herself and everyone by falling for Danny Esposito, a charmer with a troublesome family. Twenty years later with hard times in Ireland again, a new generation looks to America, awakening memories for their parents. When a crisis occurs, Elizabeth returns to Boston and is drawn back into the life she once lived. But will she be able to reconcile the dreams of her 20-year-old self with the woman she has become? A story of family, friendship and love.

Irish Debut



The Universe versus Alex Woods by Gavin Extence (2013)

A tale of an unexpected friendship, an unlikely hero and an improbable journey.

This is the story of seventeen-year-old Alex Woods - born to a clairvoyant mother and a phantom father, victim of an improbable childhood accident - who is stopped at Dover customs in possession of 113 grams of marijuana and the ashes of his best friend, Vietnam veteran Isaac Peterson. What follows is a highly original and compelling account of Alex's life and the strange series of events that brought him here.

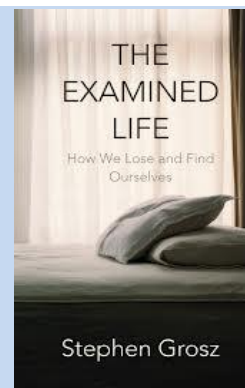
Richard and Judy Summer Read, 2013



Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn (2012)

It is Nick and Amy Dunne's 5th wedding anniversary when Nick's beautiful wife disappears from their home on the Mississippi River. Under mounting pressure from the police and the media—as well as Amy's fiercely doting parents—the town golden boy parades an endless series of lies, deceits, and inappropriate behaviour. Nick stands by his innocence. Trouble is, if Nick didn't do it, where is that beautiful wife? And what was in that silvery gift box hidden in the back of her bedroom closet? Gillian Flynn delivers a fast-paced, devilishly dark, and ingeniously plotted thriller.

Crime Fiction Women's Prize for Fiction, 2013 (Longlist)



The examined life by Stephen Grosz (2013)

In a series of short, vivid, dramatic tales, using psychoanalytic insight without psychoanalytic jargon, *The Examined Life* tracks the collaborative journey of therapist and patient as they uncover the hidden feelings behind apparently ordinary behaviour patterns.

These case studies are all based on actual people. While factually true, they demonstrate a novelist's empathetic understanding of the human mind. This extraordinary book is about one ordinary process: talking, listening and understanding.

Non-fiction Reading Group recommendation

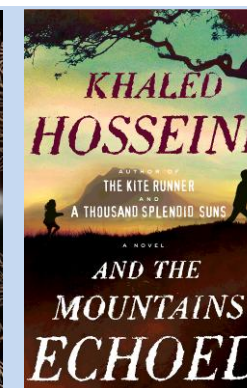


Thick & Thin by Sarah Harte (2013)

Marianne Dillon and Clare McMahon are friends for twenty-five years but when a life-altering crisis hits their relationship - a crisis that involves their husbands, children and indeed the lives they have created - the crack that was there all along tears them apart. Each must face catastrophe without the support of the best friend she would always turn to. Is it possible that a relationship that was so central to their lives was built on sand? And can they rescue something from the wreckage? An intelligent novel which encapsulates some universal truths about families, friendship and what we value.

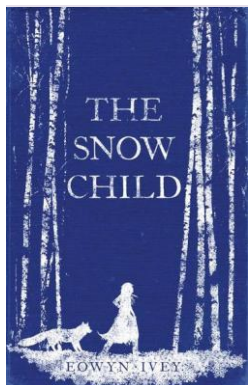
Irish

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And the Mountains Echoed by Khaled Hosseini (2013)

Afghanistan, 1952. Abdullah and his sister Pari live in the village of Shadbagh where they struggle through poverty and brutal winters. To Abdullah, Pari - beautiful and sweet-natured - is everything and he will do anything for her. The siblings journey to Kabul with their father, where their lives are torn apart. Crossing generations and continents, with profound wisdom and compassion, Hosseini writes about the bonds that define our lives, the ways in which we help our loved ones in need, how the choices we make resonate through history and how we are often surprised by those closest to us.



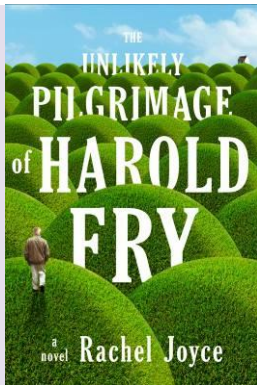
Snow Child by Eowyn Ivey (2012)

A bewitching tale of heartbreak and hope set in 1920s Alaska. Jack and Mabel have staked everything on a fresh start in a remote homestead, but the wilderness is a strange place, and Mabel is haunted by the baby she lost many years before.

When a little girl appears mysteriously on their land, each is filled with wonder, but also foreboding - is she what she seems and can they find room in their hearts for her?

But in this beautiful, violent place things are rarely as they appear, and what they eventually learn will transform all of them.

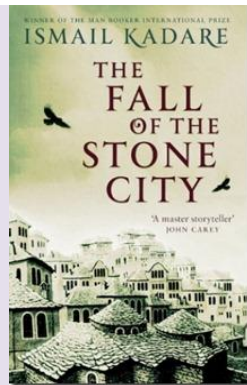
Richard and Judy Book club, 2012



The unlikely pilgrimage of Harold Fry by Rachel Joyce (2013)

Harold Fry, nips out one morning, convinced that he must deliver a letter to an old love in order to save her. Leaving his bitter wife hovering upstairs, he has no idea that he is about to walk from one end of the country to the other. So without hiking boots or map, he begins his unlikely pilgrimage across the English countryside.

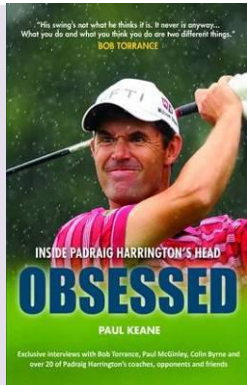
All he knows is that he must keep walking. Along the way, strangers stir up memories, often painful, of a time when his marriage was filled with promise. Ironically, his wife, shocked by her husband's sudden absence, begins to long for his presence



The fall of the Stone City by Ismail Kadare (2012)

1943: German soldiers advance on the ancient gates of Gjirokaster, Albania. An act of rebellion leaves the citizens fearful of a bloody counter-attack. However, the Nazi Colonel, once a school friend of local dignitary, Doctor Gurameto, greets his former classmate warmly; in return, Doctor Gurameto invites him to dinner.

The next day, the army disappear from the city. The dinner at Gurameto's house changes the course of events in 20th century Europe. But as the citizens celebrate their hero, a conspiracy surfaces which leads some to place Gurameto at the heart of a plot to undermine Socialism.



Obsessed : Inside Pdraig Harrington's head by Paul Keane

Even after winning three majors and becoming the heir-apparent to Tiger Woods, Pdraig Harrington still decided his game was not good enough. His quest was to become more than just a champion and the story of his obsession is told by his many friends and opponents.

This is an essential compendium for Harrington fans and students of the game with even a passing interest in what makes a great sportsman tick. It's a fine effort that brings the memories, good and bad, flooding back.

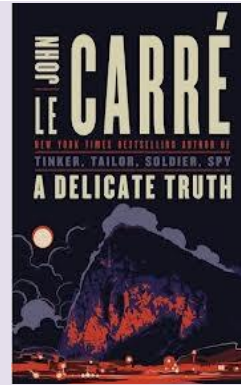
Irish / Autobiography



Tigers in Red Weather by Lisa Klausmann (2012)

Nick and her cousin, Helena, have grown up at Tiger House, on the island of Martha's Vineyard. As World War II ends they are on the cusp of adulthood. Helena is leaving for Hollywood and marriage, while Nick's young husband is due to return from the War. Everything is about to change. Neither finds the life she had imagined. A decade later, Nick's daughter and Helena's son make a sinister discovery. Magnificently told by each of the five characters in turn, this is a novel of simmering passion, betrayal and secret violence beneath a polished and fragile facade.

Richard & Judy Summer Read, 2013

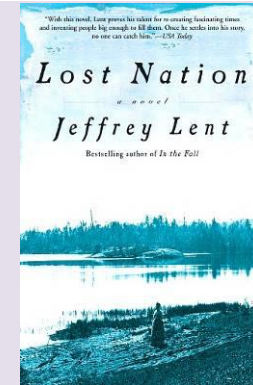


A delicate truth by John Le Carré (2013)

Gibraltar, 2008: A counter-terror operation, codenamed Wildlife, is mounted to capture a jihadist arms-buyer. Four years later a disgraced Special Forces soldier delivers a message from the dead which questions the success of Operation Wildfire. Summoned by Sir Christopher Probyn, retired British diplomat, Toby Bell, must choose between his conscience and duty to his Service. If the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing, how can he keep silent?

A furiously paced story of moral dilemma, bold action and unexpected love.

Spy story



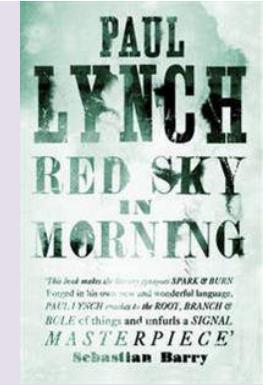
Lost nation by Jeffrey Lent (2003)

Early 19th century, a man known as Blood travels to Indian Stream. An ungoverned territory in New Hampshire, a place where the luckless and the lawless make a fresh start -- and Blood's reason for heading there is no different. A man with a past he'd rather forget, he hopes to establish himself as a trader.

But on their arrival, he and Sally -- a beautiful sixteen-year-old won in a game of cards -- soon find their presence is the trigger for conflict within the community; conflict that forces Blood to confront his ghosts.

A compelling and atmospheric novel.

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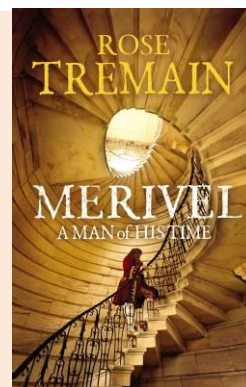
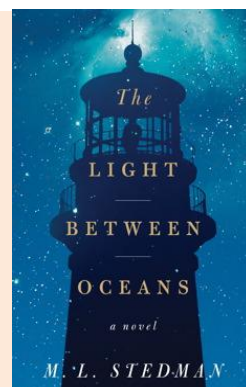
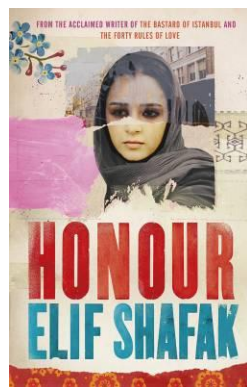
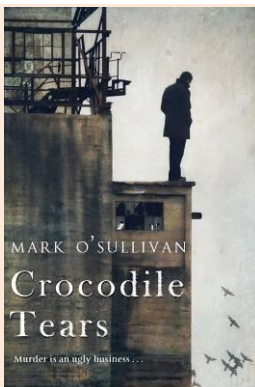
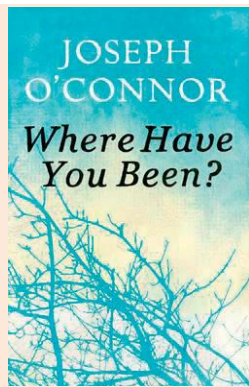
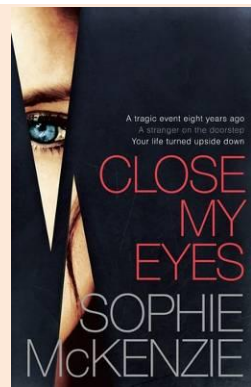
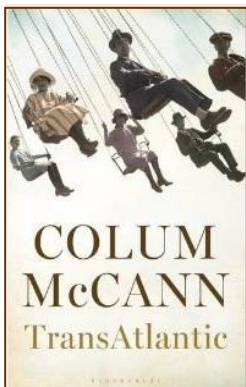
Red Sky in Morning by Paul Lynch (2013)

Donegal Spring 1832: Coll Coyle stands to lose everything due to the cruel intentions of his landowner's son. Reluctant, Coll sets out to confront his trouble. And so begins his fall from the rain-soaked Eden, and a pursuit across the bog lands of Donegal. Behind him is John Faller - a man who has vowed to hunt Coll to the ends of the earth - in a pursuit that will stretch to an epic voyage across the Atlantic, and to in the new American frontier.

A mesmerising tale of oppression which explores the merciless side of man and the indifference of nature.

Irish

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Transatlantic by Colum McCann (2013)

In 1845 a black American slave lands in Ireland to champion ideas of democracy and freedom, only to find a famine unfurling at his feet. In 1919, two brave young airmen emerge from the carnage of World War One to pilot the very first transatlantic flight from Newfoundland to the west of Ireland, and in 1998 an American senator criss-crosses the ocean in search of a lasting Irish peace.

National Book Award-winning novelist Colum McCann delivers his most ambitious and beautiful novel yet, tying together a series of narratives that span 150 years and two continents in an outstanding act of literary bravura. **Irish**

Close My Eyes by Sophie McKenzie (2013)

Gen Loxley lost her daughter, Beth, eight years ago. Gen has settled in to a life of half-hearted teaching while Art, her husband, pressures her into trying IVF gain. For Gen, it is a cruel act of replacement; life without Beth is unthinkable. And then a woman arrives on Gen's doorstep, saying the very thing she longs to hear: that her daughter was not stillborn, but was spirited away and is waiting to be found...

So why is Art reluctant to get involved? To save his wife from further hurt? Or something more sinister? What is the truth about Beth Loxley?

Richard and Judy Summer Read, 2012

Where Have You Been? By Joseph O'Connor (2012)

A collection of short stories by novelist Joseph O'Connor.

Ranging from contemporary London and Dublin to New York's Lower East Side in the nineteenth century, from dark comedy to poignancy, from the wryly provocative to the quietly beautiful, these stories offer a gathering of dreamers and lost souls who contend with the confusions of living.

A powerfully moving, entertaining and life-affirming read.

Irish Short stories Bord Gais Energy Awards 2012 (Short list)

Crocodile tears by Mark O'Sullivan (2013)

Irish Tycoon, Dermot Brennan, is found murdered in his Dublin Home. Leading the investigation is Detective Inspector Leo Woods, an embittered former UN peacekeeper with a drug habit and a face disfigured by Bell's Palsy. A host of suspects quickly emerge; together Woods and Troy weave their way through a tangled web to get to the shocking truth. Acclaimed children's fiction writer, Mark O'Sullivan, is an exciting new voice in literary fiction, the absorbing plot and the exceptional lead character combine to make this novel an excellent summer read.

Irish Crime Fiction

Honour by Elif Shafak (2012)

Leaving her twin sister behind in Turkey, Pembe Toprak follows her husband to London to make new lives for themselves. Yet, the beliefs they left behind stay with them. Their eldest is the boy Iskender, who remembers Turkey and feels betrayal deeper than most. His sister is Esma, who is loyal despite the pain and heartache. And, lastly, Yunus, who was born in London, and is shy and different. Trapped by the mistakes of the past, the Toprak children find their lives transformed by a brutal act of murder .

A novel of love, betrayal and a clash of cultures

The Light Between Oceans by M.E. Stedman (2012)

A boat washes up on the shore of a remote lighthouse keeper's island. It holds a dead man – and a crying baby.

The only two islanders, Tom and his wife Izzy, are about to make a devastating decision. They break the rules and follow their hearts. What happens next will break yours.

We are swept into a story about extraordinarily compelling characters seeking to find their North Star in a world where there is no right answer, where justice for one person is another's tragic loss.

Long listed for the Women's Prize for Fiction 2013

Merivel by Rose Tremain (2013)

Sequel to the acclaimed "Restoration". Robert Merivel, physician and courtier to Charles II, loved for his ability to turn sorrow into laughter, now faces the agitations and anxieties of middle age. Questions crowd his mind: has he been a good father? Is he a fair master? Is he the King's friend or the King's slave? In search of answers, Merivel sets off for the French court.

A big-hearted rogue who loves his daughter, his country house and the English King... Merivel is Everyman -- and he speaks directly to us down the centuries.

Historical Guardian Books of the Year 2012

Beautiful ruins by Jess Walter (2013)

A set in 1960s Italy and a modern Hollywood studio.

The story begins in 1962. Somewhere on a rocky patch of the sun-drenched Italian coastline a young innkeeper, chest-deep in daydreams, looks out over the incandescent waters of the Ligurian Sea and views an apparition: a beautiful woman, a vision in white, approaching him on a boat.

The story continues in Hollywood, when an elderly Italian man shows up on a movie studio's back lot searching for the woman he last saw at his hotel fifty years before.

Sunday Times recommendation