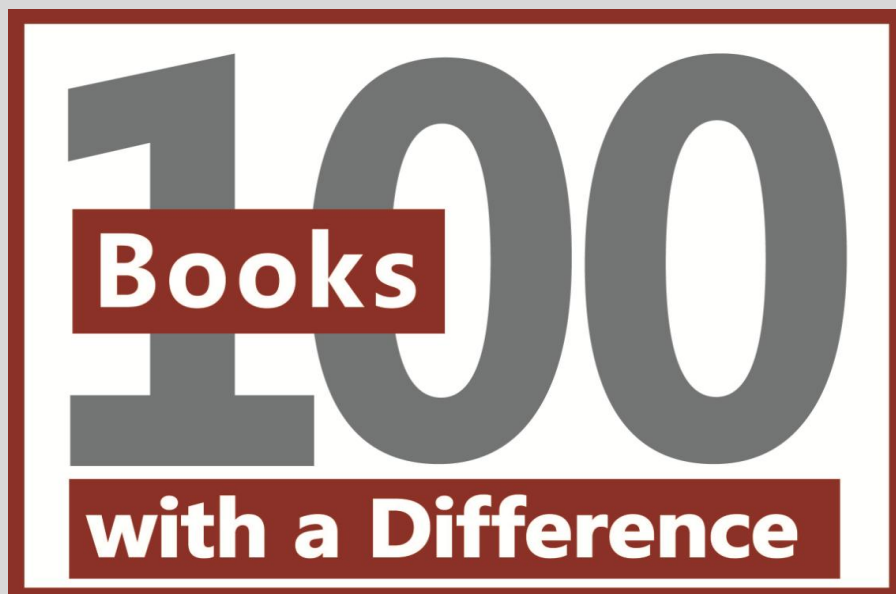


100 Books with a Difference

100 Books with a Difference: The Reading Guide

is also available in electronic format on our website www.cavanlibrary.ie



If you would like to get involved, check out our website for full details. If you have any questions about the “100 Books with a Difference” Reading Initiative please contact:

Josephine Brady

Cavan County Librarian

Phone: 00 353 (0)49 4378500

Email: library@cavancoco.ie

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Compiled by: Cavan County Council's Library Service Staff Team

Edited by: Josephine Brady and Maureen Gilbert

Designed by: Martina Rooney

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What is this Reading Initiative all about?

“No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.” Nelson Mandela



Cavan County Council's Library Service wants to bring people together and get our community thinking and talking about difference, through reading. That's because we believe that great books don't just echo, vindicate and validate our own experience. They also take us to places we hadn't imagined but which, once seen, we never forget and those places could involve more equality, tolerance and understanding.

We know that when literature is working really well it can bridge gaps between intolerance and understanding, apathy and passion, and cultural and economic disparity. The right book in the right hands is a powerful tool that can change lives and communities for the better.

Through our “100 Books with a Difference” readers will explore the truth of living with prejudice and discrimination; learn that the shared experience of difference is what in fact unites us; and discover the wisdom of celebrating difference. Irish equality law prohibits discrimination on nine grounds: **Age, Civil Status, Disability, Family Status, Gender, Race, Religion, Sexual Orientation and Membership of the Traveller Community**. We have chosen 10 great books that offer real insight under each of these grounds. We have also added a 10th theme: Peace Building in Northern Ireland.

How were the “100 Books with a Difference” chosen? The “100 Books with a Difference” is the best choice of Cavan librarians who are passionate about literature and about equality. We did not have any critics helping us spot oversights. Guiding people to great reads is our daily task and one that we take very seriously. A truly international flavour sees 41 Irish writers sitting side by side with English, American, African and Asian writers. Award-winners stand with titles that are not at all well-known. All are gifts to the reader, relate to and illuminate the various aspects of difference covered by legislation, and deserve to be shared. We fully accept that people will have other opinions and we welcome the public's choices of which books should have been included or excluded.

Getting involved - here's how!

Everyone can get involved. You can keep it simple and just read one or more of the 100 Books. You can choose to do more. We have lots planned – it is up to you. Read some of the 100 Books and share your thoughts with a Reading Group. Talk about discrimination you have encountered and discuss how we might tackle prejudice, build bridges, and change lives and our community for the better. Get blogging! www.cavanlibrary.ie Tell us:

- Your thoughts on the overall project - Good or bad, we want to know.
- What do you think of the books chosen? Submit a review if you like!
- Is there a title that you feel strongly should be on our list? Tell us why.
- Is there a title you feel strongly should not be on our list? Tell us why.
- Choose your favourite book on our list and tell us why.
- Tell us how we might promote this project and get more people involved?



Future Plans?

We believe that this project has longevity and potential and local, national, even global appeal. Through our website and blog we will maintain online access to “100 Books with a Difference”, creating a rich resource for all equality grounds.

We hope to get other public libraries, academic institutions, equality organisations, reading groups and bookshops involved – not just in Ireland, but internationally.

We plan to promote and develop this project online at www.cavanlibrary.ie and generate lots of social media interaction.

Age

“Nobody stays special when they’re old, Anna. That’s what we have to learn.”

**May Sarton,
“As We Are Now”**



Age. It's such an innocuous word. Three letters. And yet, confronted by it, we deny it, hide it, avoid it, decry it, make jokes about it, worm past it, even at the advertisers' urgings try to reverse it, for God's sake.

Why? What is it but the living of a life, the marking of passing years, growth, the realising of a potential that only ceases with the end of that life?

As the late John O'Donohue has said, "Age is more a matter of temperament than time". You can be nineteen, but overcome by seriousness and lacking any "wildness", you are in reality ninety. And you can be in your eighties and have the mind of a nineteen-year-old, having totally failed to grow old as was expected of you! That is not to deny the reality of advanced years - pain, infirmity, loneliness, fear of mortality. Beyond the reality, however, lie the beauty of wisdom and the deep well of memory and out of these a rich harvest is there to be won.

And there is always, always possibility. Again, to quote John O'Donohue, "too often it is the walls we see, it is the door where the key has been thrown away that we see - and we never see the windows of possibility and the places where thoughts and feelings can grow..." Jonas Jonasson's 100-year-old saw the window and climbed out!

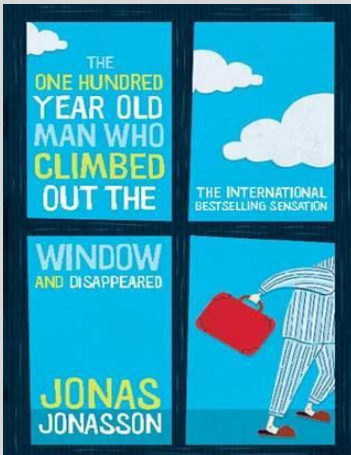
Read these books and know that it is possible to grow old not just "gracefully", but passionately. And the passionate heart never ages... As Kingsley Amis illustrates, it is quite possible to be old and "triumphantly human". Patrick Kavanagh put it more starkly:

"To be dead is to stop believing in
The masterpieces we will begin tomorrow"

Indeed, Age is a powerful word.

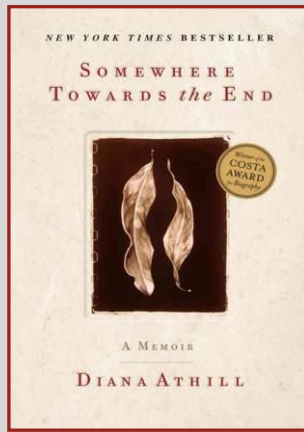
John Quinn

The lines from "To Be Dead" by Patrick Kavanagh are reprinted from Collected Poems, edited by Antoinette Quinn (Allen Lane, 2004), by kind permission of the Trustees of the Estate of the late Katherine B. Kavanagh, through the Jonathan Williams Literary Agency.



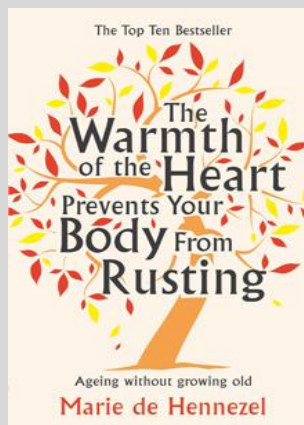
The One Hundred Year Old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window and Disappeared
Jonas Jonasson, 2009

At the core of ageism is a failure to truly identify with older people as peers and equals. We cannot help but identify with the main character in this novel who hops out the window of his old people's home and does a runner! Even though the limits of his physical reserve intrude regularly, whether through his failing joints, weak bladder, or his propensity to frequent naps, this in no way diminishes his vitality or the novel's humour.



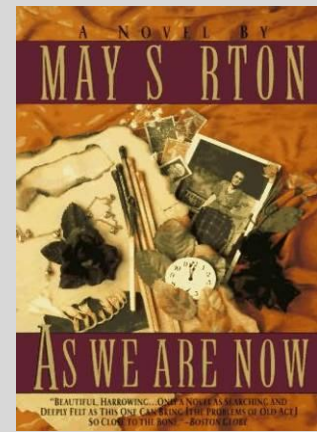
Somewhere Towards the End
Diana Athill, 2008

This Costa Book of the Year winner is a perfect memoir of old age – candid, detailed, charming and totally lacking in self-pity or sentimentality. In telling it like it is, with humour and compassion, she strikes a real blow against ageism.



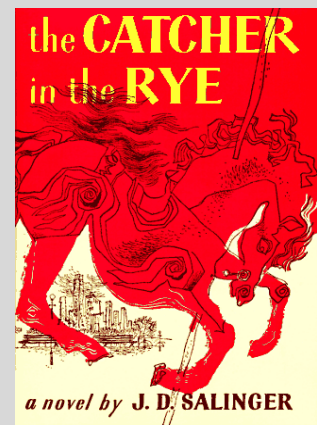
The Warmth of the Heart Prevents Your Body from Rusting: ageing without growing old
Marie De Hennezel, 2012

Eloquent meditation on ageing which outlines encounters with extraordinary people who are growing old gracefully. A wonderful book by a clinical psychologist with a powerful message.



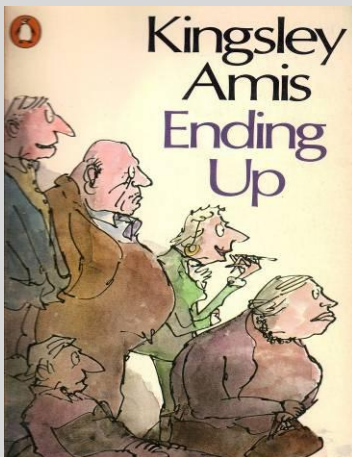
As We Are Now
May Sarton, 1973

A novel about the powerlessness of the old and the rage it can bring. Tells Caroline's story, a 76-year-old who has been moved into a "home". Subjected to subtle humiliations and cruelties, she fights back, and in a powerful climax wins a terrible victory. Reminds us of the inevitability of aging and the immensity of the care-giving responsibility.



The Catcher in the Rye
J.D. Salinger, 1951

This widely acclaimed story, known for its themes of teenage angst and alienation, details two days in the life of 16-year-old Holden, following expulsion from school. Confused and disillusioned, he searches for truth and rails against the phoniness of the adult world.



Ending Up Kingsley Amis, 1974

Describes the final stages of five old people's lives, each connected, but forced to share an isolated cottage.

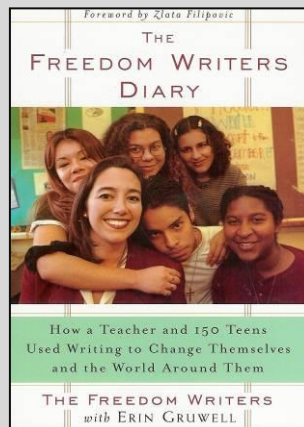
A story about growing older and facing death.

Amis reminds us that we can be elderly, semi-senile, crippled with physical indignities, self-deluding and humiliatingly unable to resolve in old age the problems of early life, and still be triumphantly human.



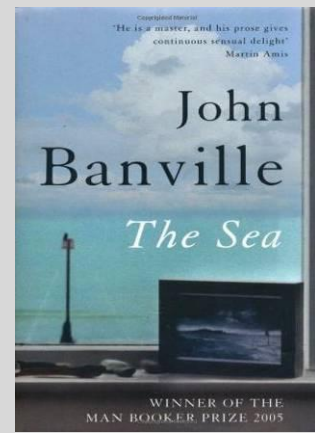
Age Discrimination Malcolm Sargeant, 2011

Looks at how both young and old can be penalised by prejudice against their age group. This book is essential reading for anyone interested in the implications of equality legislation, for businesses and service providers, public or private.



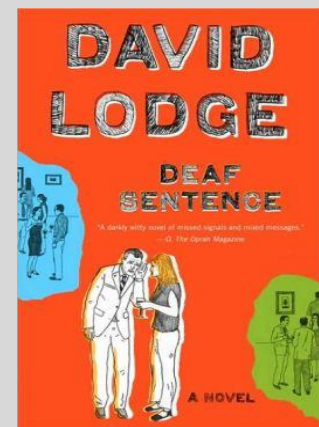
The Freedom Writers Diary, Erin Gruwell (Teacher), 1999

Straight from the front line of urban America, this inspiring story tells of one fiercely determined teacher and her remarkable students. Explores how reading and creative writing empowered young lives.



The Sea John Banville, 2005

This 2005 Booker Prize winning novel is a reflection on ageing, terminal illness and death, and an examination of the nature of memory. What the main character comes to understand about the past is at the centre of this beautifully written novel.



Deaf Sentence David Lodge, 2008

This dark, comedic novel is a moving account of one man's efforts to come to terms with deafness, ageing, the emptiness of his retirement life, bodily decay and mortality. This is a novel that ultimately brings home the preciousness of time, life and love.

Civil Status

“Tell stories. Story carries the power to capture peoples’ hearts and to create a readiness for them to think about things in a new way. Social change does not happen unless many, many people are willing to tell their stories, out loud.”

**Ann Louise Gilligan and Katherine Zappone,
“Our Lives Out Loud: In Pursuit of Justice and Equality”**



“For better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health...”

The shadow side to marriage vows is a recurrent theme in “Middlemarch”, a sweeping novel in which human relationships are examined.

“Worse”, “poorer” and “sickness” are more common than their happier alternatives for a number of George Eliot’s unsuitably matched couples. I read “Middlemarch” at school – I still have my dog-eared copy with pencil notes along the margins – but was pleasantly surprised by its compassion for those trapped inside incompatible marriages when I returned to it recently.

Not just women, as might be expected from their subordinate position in Victorian society, but men suffer. Eliot – notorious for co-habiting openly with the love of her life – was signalling that hasty pairings were a risky business.

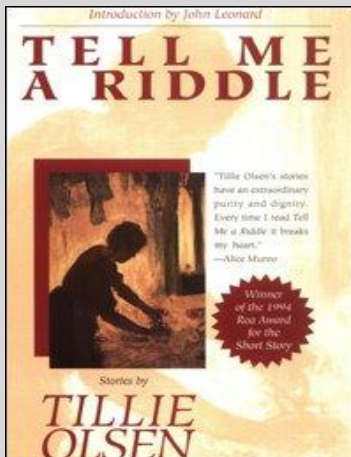
Yet single women can be vulnerable, as Brian Moore’s 1950s Belfast novel “The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne” testifies. Judith is at once a little unlikeable, steeped in petty snobberies, and deeply pathetic - a combination which makes her a compelling central character.

Judith’s lot is a familiar one. She is the spinster pressurised into giving up work to care for an elderly relative, and left financially straitened afterwards. However, even her single female friend with a solid civil service job is unfulfilled. Only married or widowed women know security or joy here.

In “Middlemarch”, by comparison, a poor relation named Mary Garth who has innate self-worth is the most independent and contented character of all. Clearly, that’s the key to happiness rather than choosing either marriage or the single state. Mystery solved. And here are two eloquent novels to help us unlock it.

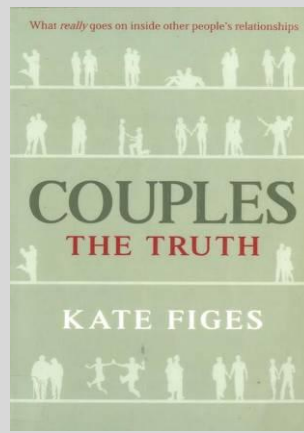
Martina Devlin

Civil Status



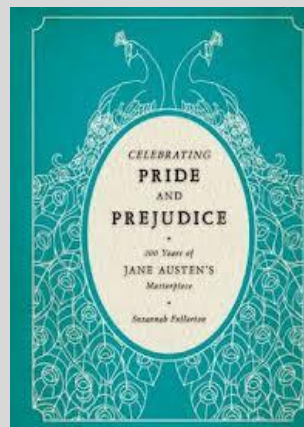
Tell me a Riddle Tillie Olsen, 1961

A collection of four stories including the title novella which is a tender and highly acclaimed portrait of a marriage in trouble and how life and social conventions can slaughter love. This award-winning classic tells the story of a working class couple and the gender determined differences in their experiences of poverty and familial life that have given rise to bitter conflict after almost four decades of marriage.



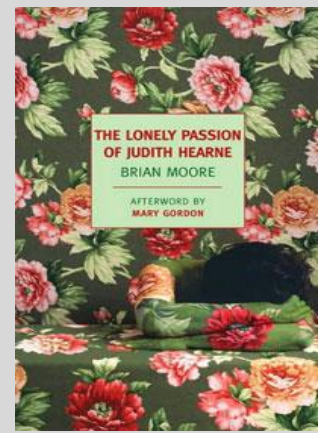
Couples: the truth Kate Figes, 2010

Based on interviews with 120 people and academic research, this is a compelling, clear-eyed, tolerant and wise summary of the changing nature of relationships. Taking the term "couples" to mean all long-term (including same-sex) partnerships, Figes tackles a difficult subject with fascinating results.



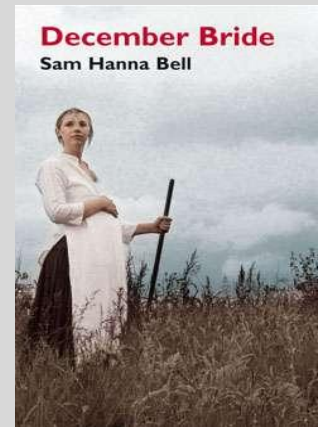
Pride and Prejudice Jane Austen, 1813

Austen's acute observations on human interaction and the pressure to live according to the prevailing social conventions on marriage is timeless.



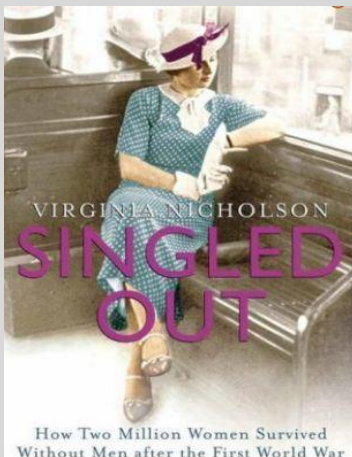
The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne Brian Moore, 1955

Judith is an unmarried woman of a certain age who has come down in society. She has few skills and is full of the prejudices and pieties of her genteel Belfast upbringing. An unflinching and deeply sympathetic portrait of a woman destroyed by self but also by exclusion and discrimination.



December Bride Sam Hanna Bell, 1951

Timeless love story involving two brothers and their love for the same woman Sarah, who bears a child to one of Andrew's sons. But who is the father? Her steadfast refusal over many years to "bend and contrive things" by choosing one of the brothers reverberates throughout her strict Scotch-Irish Presbyterian community.



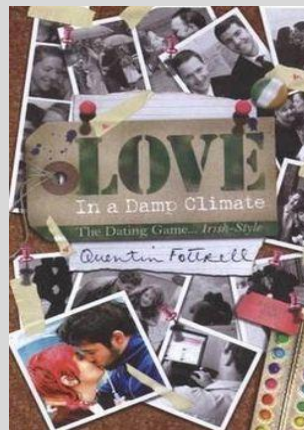
Singled Out: how two million women survived without men after the First World War
Virginia Nicholson, 2007

Brings to vivid life women of the 1920s and 1930s who had to manage their own disappointment and reduced expectations following the death of a generation of young men, in a climate that pushed homemaking and viewed them with pity and condemnation. Uplifting book, rich in stories of determined and intrepid women.



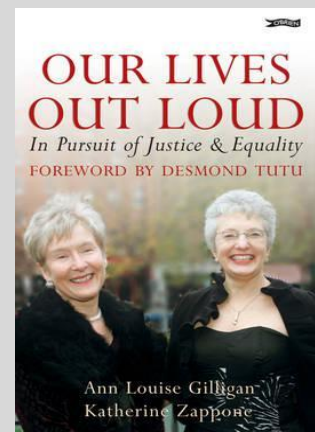
Snow Flower and Secret Fan
Lisa See, 2005

Details the deeply affecting story of lifelong, intimate friends, Lily and Snow Flower, their imprisonment by rigid codes of conduct for women and their betrayal by pride and love. See brings fascinating revelations about arranged marriages and women's inferior status.



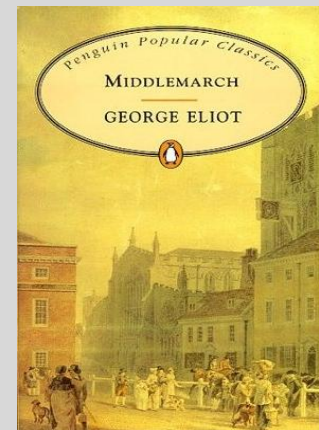
Love in a Damp Climate: the dating game, Irish style
Quentin Fottrell, 2008

Combining anecdotes, interviews and relationship conundrums, this book is a collection of the best and worst problems (and solutions), chronicling the efforts of Ireland's singletons to find love. It is about the relationships and friendships that sustain us and a witness to the rapid changes in Irish culture.



Our Lives Out Loud: in pursuit of justice and equality
Ann Louise Gilligan and Katherine Zappone, 2008

A story of optimism and courage. This couple met and fell in love in Boston. On returning to Ireland, their relationship had to be kept secret. Ireland rejected their Canadian marriage and they had to make a decision: to go public or to stay quiet and suffer the consequences?



Middlemarch
George Eliot, 1874

A classic novel which tells an intricately detailed story with a great plot and characters that are laid bare with compassion and understanding. Offers a clear critique of the portrayal of marriage as romantic and unproblematic.

Disability

“If there's just one kind of folks, why can't they get along with each other? If they're all alike, why do they go out of their way to despise each other? Scout, I think I'm beginning to understand something. I think I'm beginning to understand why Boo Radley's stayed shut up in the house all this time. It's because he wants to stay inside.”

Harper Lee,
“To Kill a Mockingbird”



Franklin D. Roosevelt - US President or a wheelchair user? Ability or disability? What do you see?

People with disabilities are amongst the most excluded members of society, driven by stereotypes of pity, charity and deficit.

Disability is too often about need and negativity and such a mindset has contributed to the alienation, exclusion and discrimination of people with disabilities.

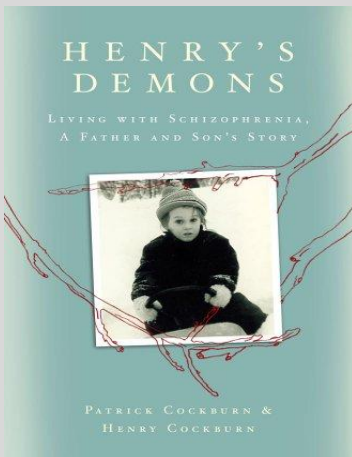
People are always people first; their disabilities should not define them.

Disability is about difference. Difference should never be about limitation. Every one of us has the right to be self-determining, achieve our potential and fulfil our dreams and be accepted for exactly who we are.

These ten books exemplify the diverseness of humanity, the power of difference and the limitations we put on others through misunderstanding. The real obstacle to global inclusion is the way we think and embrace the extraordinary difference in all of us.

Caroline Casey

Disability

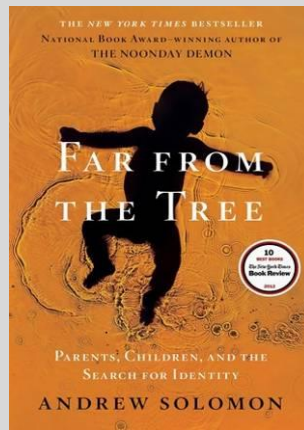


Henry's Demons: living with schizophrenia, a father and son's story
Patrick and Henry Cockburn, 2011

Explores the impact of schizophrenia on a family.

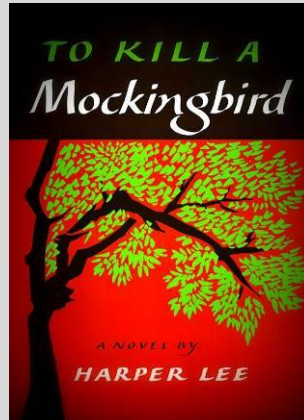
Patrick writes on the progress of his son's illness and examines the disastrous impact of successive government policies. Henry writes on what it is like to be "inside" a mental illness.

A powerful story of suffering and a work of literary power.



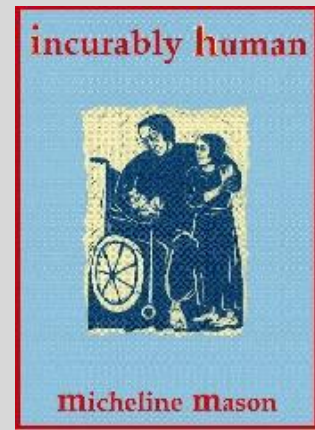
Far from the Tree: a dozen kinds of love
Andrew Solomon, 2012

A landmark book. It examines the experiences of families who have had to deal with many forms of impairment and difference. The range of disabilities explored is immense. It includes stories of coping with deafness, dwarfism, down syndrome, autism, schizophrenia, multiple severe disabilities and children who are transgender.



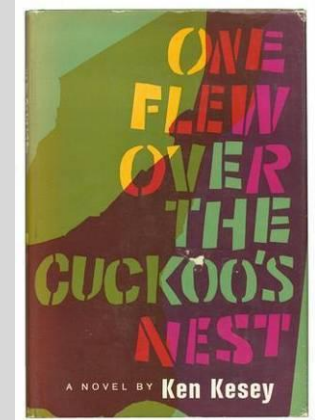
To Kill a Mockingbird
Harper Lee, 1960

Praised for tackling racial and gender inequality issues, it also explores the prejudice suffered by people with disabilities. As a study of prejudice in all its forms, this novel has never been bettered. It offers us an object lesson in the discrimination suffered by people with disabilities.



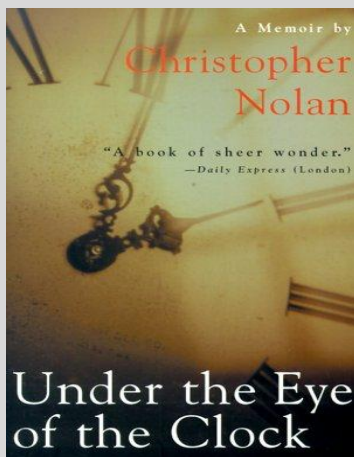
Incurably Human
Micheline Mason, 2005

A ground-breaking book. By delving into her personal journey, Mason explores the deeper meaning of inclusion. She looks at how communities are being fragmented by the forces of global economics, rekindling the past policies that have created a culture of exclusion.



One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
Ken Kesey, 1962

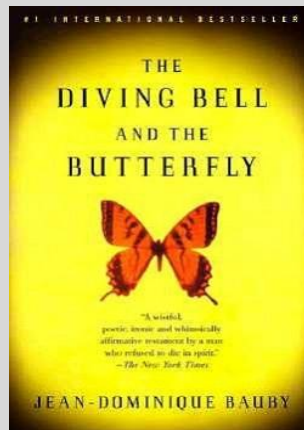
The central theme of this novel is the importance of not turning a blind eye to injustice. Based on Kesey's experiences at a war veteran's mental hospital, it addresses the relationship between sanity and madness, conformity and rebellion.



Under the Eye of the Clock
Christopher Nolan, 1987

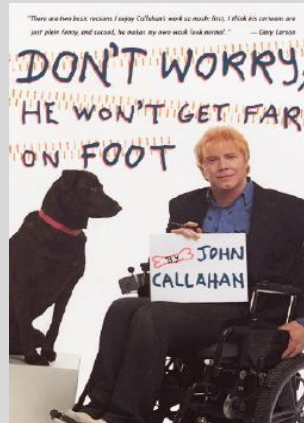
Autobiographical novel which tells the story of the battles faced by the main character but also by many people with disabilities with a touching intensity.

Nolan's gift as a storyteller shines and there can be no doubt that this is an important work, as fresh and alive as when it was written.



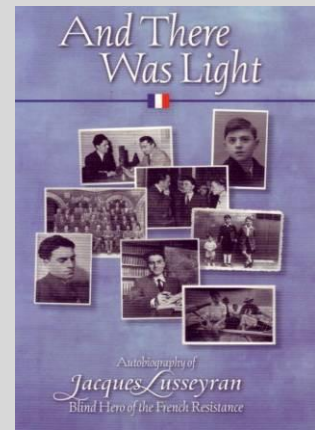
The Diving Bell and the Butterfly
Jean-Dominique Bauby, 1997

In 1995, Bauby suffered a stroke which left him with a condition known as locked-in syndrome. Able to communicate only by blinking his eyelid, he dictated this book. The result is a compelling account, full of humour and devoid of self-pity and tells of his determination to live fully, despite his disability.



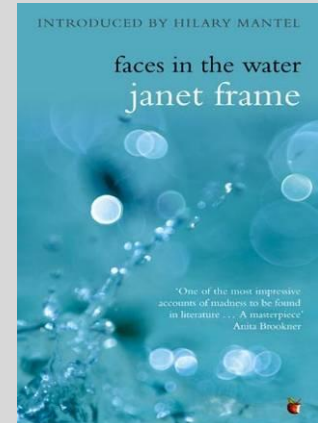
Don't Worry, He won't get far on Foot: the autobiography of a dangerous man
John Callahan, 1990

This book is at the top of many best reads lists as chosen by people with disabilities themselves. His account of the truth of living with a dysfunctional body 24 hours a day is inspiring and compelling. With keen insights and a raw, disturbing narrative, Callahan tells his own compelling story without self-pity.



And there was Light
Jacques Lusseyran, 1985

This luminous autobiography tells Lusseyran's story, a blind man who discovered the gift of inner sight after losing his vision in a childhood accident. He then put his gift to use in the struggle against Nazism. His description of what it is like to "see" as a blind man is fascinating. His account of Buchenwald is an anguishing fragment of Holocaust testimony.



Faces in the Water
Janet Frame, 1961

This is one of the most powerful descriptions of mental illness ever written. It is a biting critique of the mistreatment of people who experience mental illness.

Family Status

“For the girls the regular comings and goings restored their superior sense of self, a superiority they had received intact from Moran and which was little acknowledged by the wide world in which they had to work and live. That unexplained notion of superiority was often badly shaken and in need of restoration by the time they came home.”

**John McGahern,
“Amongst Women”**



I grew up in a cash-strapped single parent family of eight – my father died when I was still quite young – but I didn't envy the girls in my class who had cleverly managed to keep two parents intact and had money for luxuries like piano lessons. This was due to my wonderful mother and also the amount of Sesame Street I watched. That programme showed families of all shapes and sizes surviving and thriving not because they fit into a stereotype demanded by society – they often didn't – but because they ran full speed into the glorious chaos of family life.

I've never read a better description of family life than this one by American journalist Erma Bombeck: "This strange little band of characters, trudging through life, sharing diseases and toothpaste, coveting one another's desserts, hiding shampoo, borrowing money, locking each other out of our rooms, inflicting pain and kissing to heal it in the same instant, loving, laughing, defending and trying to figure out the common thread that bound us all together". Or as Anne Enright writes a bit more succinctly in "The Gathering": "God, I hate my family, these people I never chose to love, but love all the same."

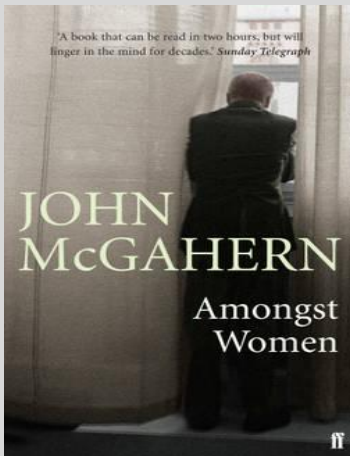
What the books chosen here, including "The Gathering" have in common is that they give the lie to the idea, still peddled by some commentators, that there exists in the world some sort-of ideal family set up. A kind of holy-grail family which is guaranteed to produce functioning adults with no issues who will then go on to produce more perfect people. But as anybody who ever had a brother, sister, mother, father, step-parent or half sibling knows, there's no normal when it comes to families. We are all just muddling through, making sense of our place in the pecking order, rebelling against and revelling in the closeness and conflict offered by these unfathomable accidents of birth.

I'm allergic to the notion of normal, especially when it comes to family status. With the current debate ongoing in Ireland around marriage equality, I regularly have to turn off the radio when I hear somebody talk about how having a mother and a father is the ideal parenting set-up for a child. It's a lie that does terrible things to my blood pressure. The current Civil Partnership Act ignores children of same sex couples who do not have the same rights as other children in this country. Why should a parent's sexuality mean some children have fewer rights than others? Why isn't a loving, supportive, nurturing home more relevant than parental sexuality? We need to keep asking these questions.

Family life is messy. It can be a recipe for disaster but also for untold joy. A pinch of love, a dash of rivalry, a lug of often excruciating proximity not forgetting a good sprinkling of family skeletons. As George Bernard Shaw once wrote "if you cannot get rid of the family skeleton, you may as well make it dance." Every one of these carefully selected books sets those family bones dancing in the most authentic way possible. I hope you enjoy them.

Róisín Ingle

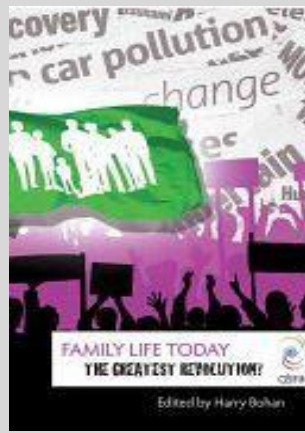
Family Status



Amongst Women John McGahern, 1990

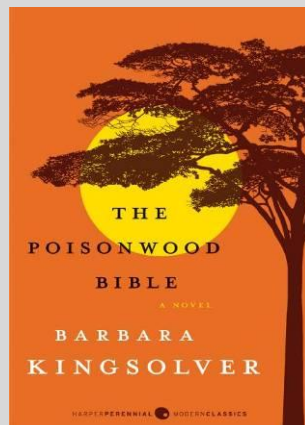
A masterpiece which begins with one of the great opening sentences: "As he weakened, Moran became afraid of his daughters."

McGahern's version of what love and togetherness does to families is dramatic and stark. At its heart is the idea that Ireland, rather than being a nation or a community, was a place of isolated families, bitter individuals and gnarled relationships.



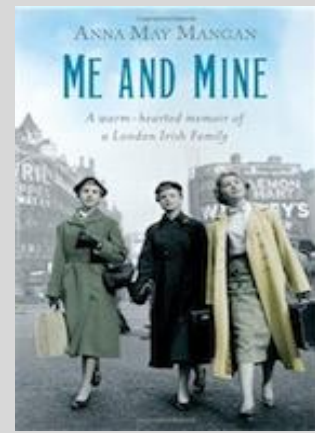
Family Life Today: the greatest revolution? Harry Bohan (Editor) 2009

Broadens our awareness of the current state of family life and the changing nature of relationships between home, school and workplace: placing particular emphasis on a new vision for the changing family. Papers of the Ceifin Conference of 2008.



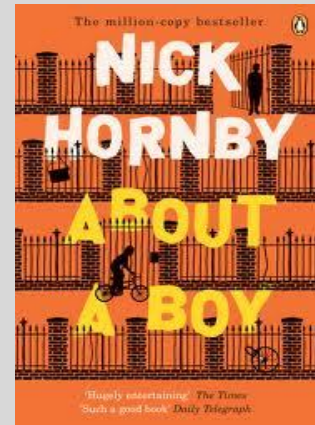
The Poisonwood Bible Barbara Kingsolver, 1998

A remarkable story narrated by a wife and four daughters of an autocratic evangelical father and their experiences in post-colonial Congo. This epic turns on several axles, not least one family's tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction over the course of three decades told by the women of that family.



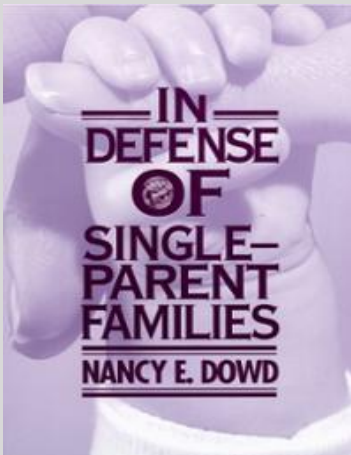
Me and Mine: a warm-hearted memoir of a London Irish family Anna May Mangan, 2011

This account of an extended Irish emigrant family's experience in London from the early 1950s is thronged with prejudice, illness, death, poverty, hunger, gambling, sexual repression and domestic abuse. Despite this, what shines through is the warmth and loving nature of a family, beautifully and delicately described by a fine writer.



About a Boy Nick Hornby, 1998

An utterly charming tale of what actually constitutes family in a story which examines growing up (or the failure to do so); keeping life at bay; lack of family; the fear of loss of family; and the friendship of two adolescents – one 12 and one 36!

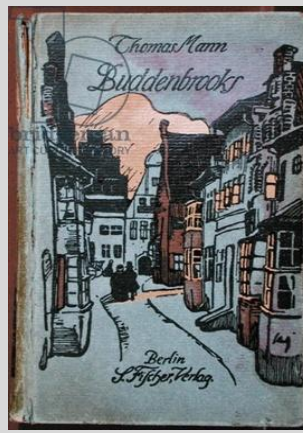


In Defense of Single-Parent Families
Nancy E. Dowd, 1996

Dowd explains how society stigmatizes single parents, especially those who are female and black.

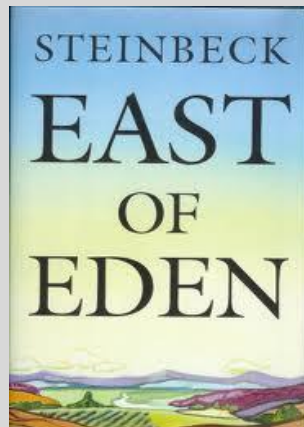
She argues that the quality of family functioning is related more to the level of economic and social support present than to the number of parents.

A thoughtful analysis.



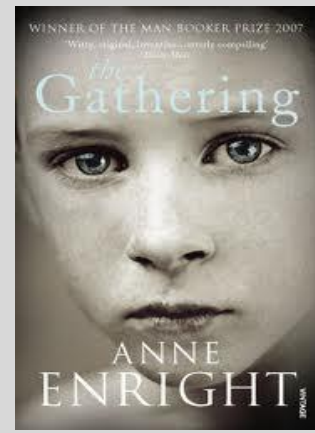
Buddenbrooks
Thomas Mann, 1901

A classic tale of four generations of a wealthy German family. Charts a family's decline from prosperity to bankruptcy, from moral soundness to sickly piety and madness. A world pieced together from births and funerals, weddings and divorces, gossip and earthy humour. Immense in scope, rich in detail, full of humanity.



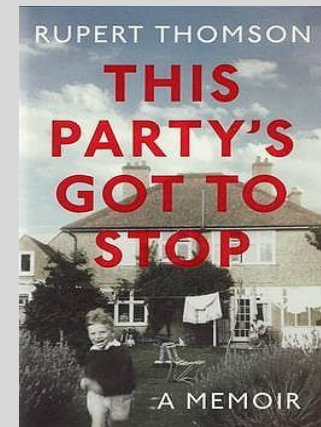
East of Eden
John Steinbeck, 1952

Probes the nature of family, marriage and sexual love, through the person of one of Steinbeck's most memorable characters, Cathy Ames. At a time when American women were expected to find fulfillment in being home-makers, a woman without love for family bonds is portrayed as dangerous and demonic.



The Gathering
Anne Enright, 2007

A bleak story of family dysfunction, told without sentimentality. The Hegarty family has gathered for the funeral and wake of Liam, an alcoholic who committed suicide. The novel's narrator is 39-year-old Veronica. She examines her family's troubled history to try to make sense of his death and uncovers family truths.



This Party's got to Stop
Rupert Thomson, 2010

A beautifully written family memoir. On a warm day in 1964, Thomson's mother dies suddenly. 20 years later, his father dies alone. In an attempt to come to terms with loss, he and his brothers move back into their father's house. This story reveals the fragility of family life and is both a love letter to family and a chronicle of the family splits that can tear people and communities apart.

Gender

“I am an expression of the divine, just like a peach is, just like a fish is. I have a right to be this way...I can't apologize for that, nor can I change it, nor do I want to... We will never have to be other than who we are in order to be successful...We realize that we are as ourselves unlimited and our experiences valid. It is for the rest of the world to recognize this, if they choose.”

**Alice Walker,
“The Color Purple” (Orion)**



Books that engage with issues of gender and identity lay bare the manner in which knowledge and thinking about women yields understanding about men and vice-versa.

The ten books so astutely chosen by Cavan County Library staff under the title “Gender” highlight the manner in which societies construct notions of appropriate roles for men and women at various points in historical time; the concept of gender moreover denotes the social and cultural relations between men and women. In “The Second Sex” (1951) Simone de Beauvoir wrote: “One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman”. Gender, as distinct from sex, is a cultural and social construct, although the novel *Middlesex*, with its intersex protagonist, does provocatively engage with the nature versus nurture debate in thinking about gender roles.

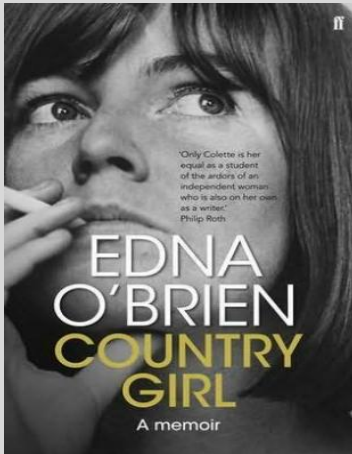
Books such as “*The Color Purple*” and “*Third Person Singular*” for example, highlight, through the lens of fiction and biography and with due reference to class and racial status, the patriarchal nature of society in Georgia and Ireland in the early twentieth century. Women such as Rosamond Jacob and the female figures of Celie and Sofia in Walker’s novel indicate the difficulties women had in attempting to transcend or subvert the dominant gender roles in a patriarchal society.

As women gained access to the public sphere of politics and work throughout the twentieth century in Europe and America this in turn gave rise to redefinitions of masculinities, issues which feature in Anthony Clare’s, “*On Men: Masculinity in crisis*” and Robert Bly’s “*Iron John*”. The purported equality of men and women in the public sphere of work and politics in a post-second wave feminist society is seen by many to have disrupted the certainties of masculine identities which had appeared immutable in the context of overtly patriarchal societies premised on the discourse of separate spheres, a female domestic space complimenting the male public sphere.

Of course, Greer’s, “*The Whole Woman*” and the edited collection, “*Performing Feminisms*”, indicate the manner in which the battle for female equality has in no way been achieved. Greer discusses the manner in which women in contemporary society are pressured to conform to male-manufactured notions of femininity, a theme very much also of “*Memoirs of a Geisha*” in a different context and time period.

Dr Leeann Lane

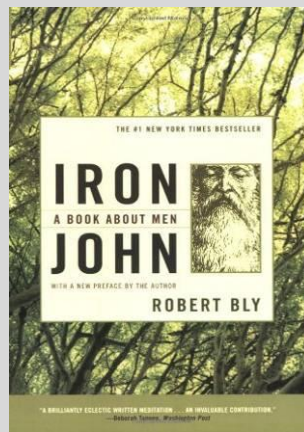
Gender



Country Girl, a memoir Edna O'Brien, 2012

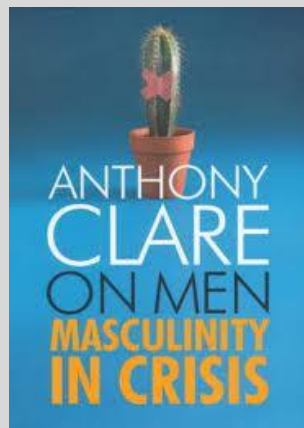
Born in Ireland in 1930 and driven into exile after publication of her controversial first novel, "The Country Girls", O'Brien has created a body of work which bears comparison with the very best writers of the twentieth century.

Ostracized by the patriarchal establishment in Ireland for harnessing the power of the female word and daring to challenge the mores of the time, "Country Girl" is a memoir of O'Brien's life experience, not to be missed.



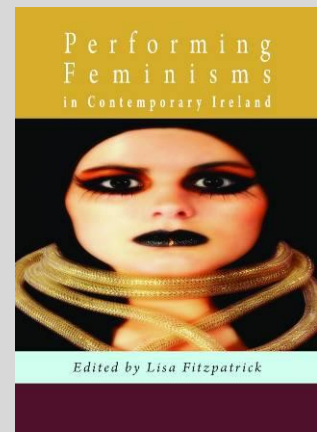
Iron John: a book about men Robert Bly, 1990

Poet Robert Bly offers a new vision of what it is to be a man, based on his ongoing work with men and reflections on his own life. Finding meaning in ancient stories and legends, Bly uses the Grimm fairy tale "Iron John" to remind us of archetypes long forgotten.



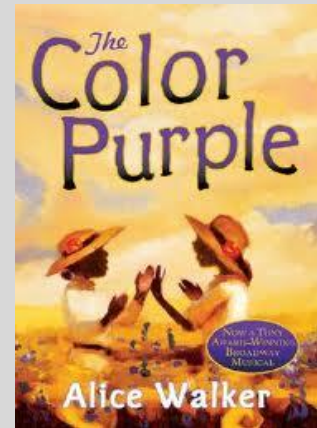
On Men: masculinity in crisis Anthony Clare, 2000

As a practising psychiatrist, Anthony Clare brings knowledge of science and medicine plus a deep understanding of the human heart and mind to this lively, readable, fair-handed and above all sympathetic examination of the male in today's society.



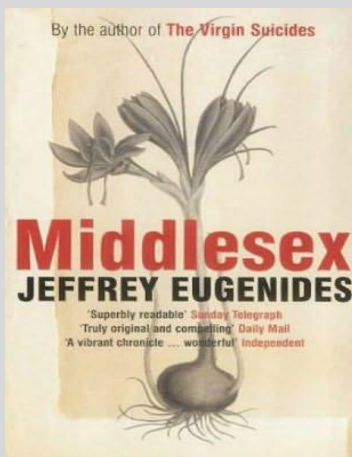
Performing Feminisms in Contemporary Ireland Lisa Fitzpatrick (Editor) 2013

Collection of essays exploring aspects of feminism in Ireland four decades after the founding of the Irish Women's Liberation Movement. Very readable while offering Irish insights into issues that affect women globally.



The Color Purple (Orion) Alice Walker, 1982

Set in 1930s rural Georgia, addresses the powerless position of African-American women. As the main character Celie builds relationships with other women, she draws strength and develops a sense of her own right to interpret herself and her world. A frequent target of censors, this is a Pulitzer Prize winning novel.

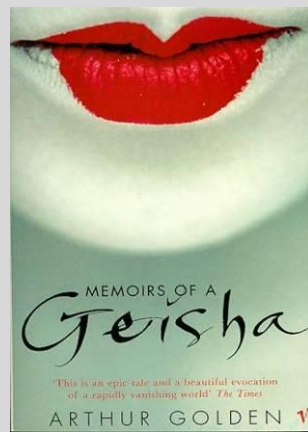


Middlesex **Jeffrey Eugenides, 2003**

Narrated by Cal, a hermaphrodite, this epic tale of how Calliope is transformed into Cal spans three generations and two continents.

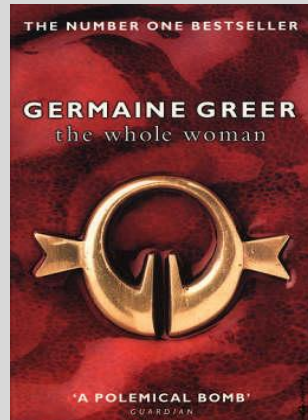
It winds from a small Greek village to the smoggy, crime-riddled streets of Detroit, past historical events, and through family secrets.

It captures the essence of Cal, a soul endowed with "the ability to communicate between the genders, to see not with the monovision of one sex but in the stereoscope of both.



Memoirs of a Geisha **Arthur Golden, 1997**

A novel about the various ways men and women relate, told through the voice of Sayuri and her story of her life as a geisha. We enter a world where appearances are paramount; where women are trained to serve and beguile the most powerful men; and where love, always elusive, is scorned as illusion.



The Whole Woman **Germaine Greer, 1999**

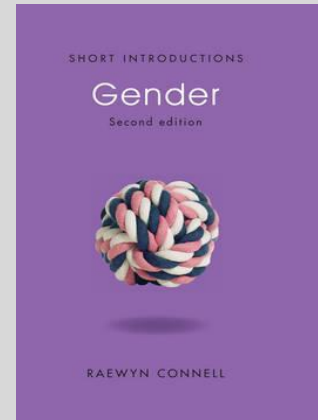
A thought-provoking book by an iconic feminist. There are ideas that you may disagree with and a lot to digest, but you will take fresh perspectives from this book. If you are curious about feminism and gender issues look no further. Greer's power lies in the intelligence and wit of the questions she raises and her capacity to force us to stop and think.



Rosamond Jacob: third person singular **Dr Leeann Lane, 2010**

Absorbing, richly textured and meticulously researched biography of the life of Rosamond Jacob - Irish republican activist, feminist, novelist and diarist.

Provides insight into this remarkable woman's life and her struggles to find her place in a patriarchal culture.



Gender: in world perspective **Raewyn W. Connell, 2009**

Provides a readable introduction to gender studies and gender politics.

It shows, in a deeply personal way, how gender politics arises in personal life and why we need to address injustice.

The author is a transsexual woman who is a leading researcher, writer and academic.

Peace Building in Northern Ireland

**“...the stronger their sense of community grew the more
excluded and isolated the McCluskeys felt”**

**Bernard MacLavery,
“Cal”**

From Cal by Bernard MacLavery, published by Jonathan Cape. Reprinted by permission of The Random House Group Limited.



Those who engage in peace building know that it is marked by uncertainty, frustration and above all pain - the pain of all those who have suffered in conflict.

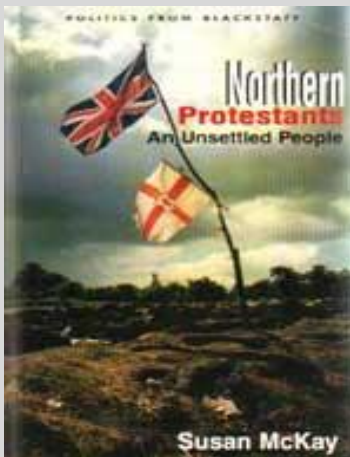
One of the sad realities of our Troubles is that grief and pain are not the prerogative of any group or unit; rather they have reached throughout our society, leaving a legacy of post-traumatic stress disorder, increased levels of alcoholism, substance abuse, and suicide. There are, of course, remarkable people, many unknown, who have overcome their pain and travelled forward to make their contribution to our peace. However those who seek to build peace must build on uncertain, unstable foundations. Peace is not easily made. It breaks down with predictable regularity, and conflict, which bubbles constantly under the surface, breaks out at intervals reminding everyone of how fragile any attempted settlement is.

We need, however, to learn the lessons of the past: of the conflict and the many attempts to create peace. As Maya Angelou said, "History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived. If faced with courage it need not be lived again."

It is through reading carefully, listening to the accounts of the past, studying, searching and investigating, thinking and discerning wherein lies truth and integrity, that we can face the past with courage and with compassion. Thus we will be enabled to create a future in which our children and their children may know peace.

Baroness Nuala O'Loan DBE MRIA

Peace Building

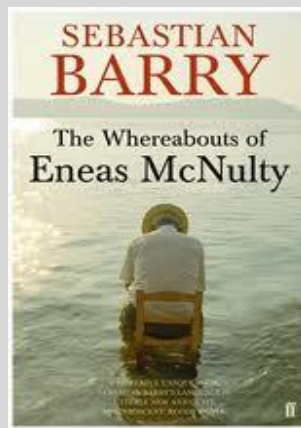


Northern Protestants: an unsettled people Susan McKay, 2005

This book is regarded as groundbreaking.

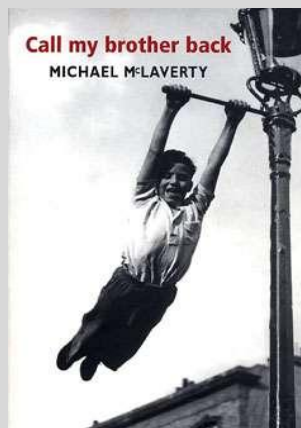
Based on in-depth interviews with a wide range of Northern Protestants, the author presents an uncompromising examination of the Protestants of Northern Ireland.

The late David Ervine said that every Protestant should read it. We say that everyone should read it!



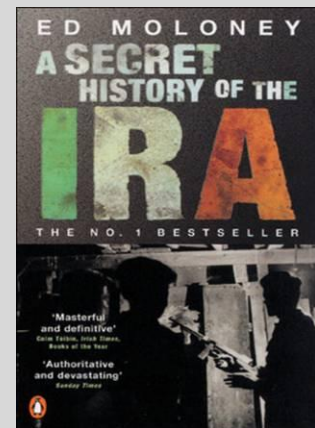
The Whereabouts of Eneas McNulty Sebastian Barry, 1998

Speaks eloquently on the ramifications of the politics of unrest on individual lives. A happy Sligo childhood in the early 1900's gives way to an Ireland wracked by violence and conflict. Unable to find work in the depressed times after World War I, Eneas joins the R.I.C., a decision that alters the course of his life. Branded a traitor by Irish nationalists and pursued by IRA hitmen, Eneas is forced to flee.



Call my Brother Back Michael McLaverty, 1939

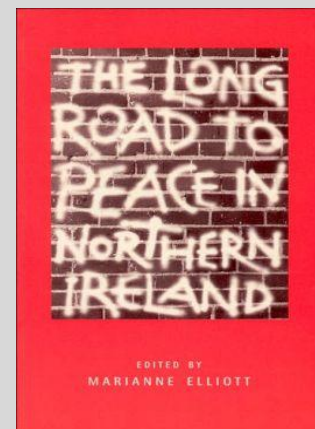
Belfast writers, including Glenn Patterson, regard this as the "must read" novel about Belfast. Set in the 1920s, it is in many ways a model for novels of the later Troubles, approaching political violence through the experience of one family, the MacNeills. Amid the police raids and gun battles, the passages that linger are of school life, of kickabouts on waste ground and Sunday walks.



A Secret History of the IRA Ed Moloney, 2002

This book is a "must read" for anyone who wants an understanding of the IRA.

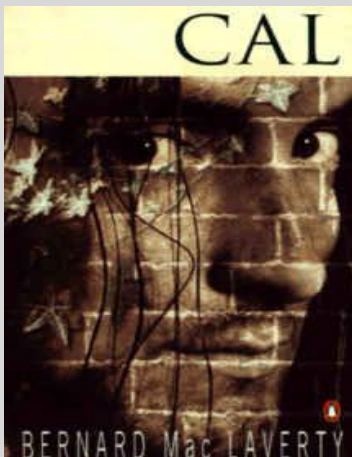
Spanning three decades and several continents, Moloney reveals the inner workings of the organisation including its links to international terrorism.



The Long Road to Peace in Northern Ireland Marianne Elliott (Editor) 2001

The impetus for this book was the series of Peace Lectures given at Liverpool University's Institute of Irish Studies.

The lectures were intended as a means for those involved in peace negotiations to share their insights and experiences with a wider audience.

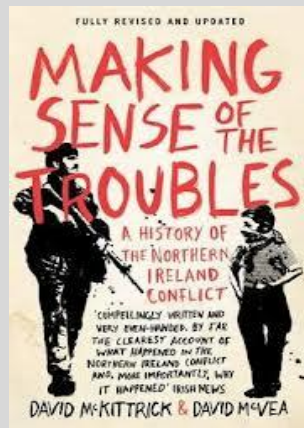


Cal
Bernard MacLaverty,
1983

Cal is the story of a Catholic teenager growing up in a mostly Protestant neighbourhood in Northern Ireland.

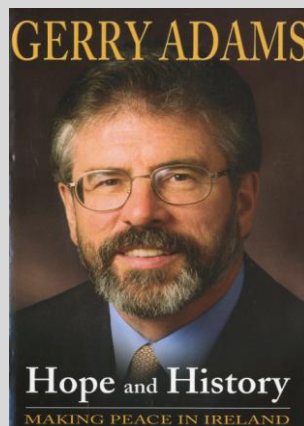
Cal drives a getaway car after a Protestant is murdered and is tortured by the memory. His life is complicated by his growing love for the wife of the murdered man.

Cal is one of the finest novels to emerge from the Northern Ireland conflict.



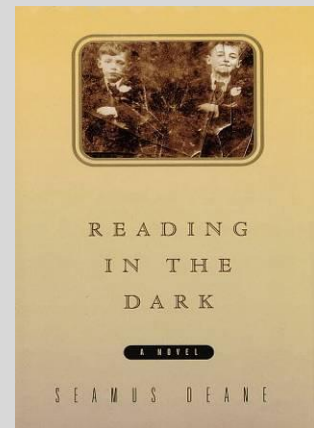
Making Sense of the Troubles: a history of the Northern Ireland conflict
David McKittrick and David McVea, 2001

This is the story of “The Troubles”, of the society out of which the strife erupted and of the peace into which the North is uneasily settling. Joanna Braniff, Irish News, says this book should be compulsory reading for everyone in Northern Ireland.



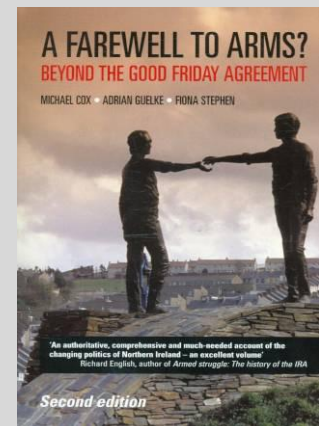
Hope and History: making peace in Ireland
Gerry Adams, 2003

Gerry Adams reveals the truth behind the headlines of how the peace process began and how it was brought to fruition. He looks at the covert talks between the Republicans and the British government, the Irish-American role, and the final negotiations.



Reading in the Dark
Seamus Deane, 1996

This novel is set in Derry and is about a boy's coming of age and “The Troubles” of Northern Ireland from partition in the 1920's to Bloody Sunday. The story incorporates the violence, chaos, sectarian division and discrimination of the time. However, the narrator always maintains a sense of hope throughout.



A Farewell to Arms? Beyond the Good Friday Agreement
Michael Cox, Adrian Guelke and Fiona Stephen, 2006

This book provides an assessment of the Good Friday Agreement and explains why it has yet to reach its full potential.

The authors combine a deep analysis of the domestic situation with a discussion of the international context into which the Agreement has to evolve.

Race

“For if life had taught her anything, it was that healing and peace can begin only with acknowledgment of wrongs committed.”

**Susan Abulhawa,
“Mornings in Jenin”**



Racism is an issue that's all around us, even here in Ireland. But that doesn't mean the issue cannot be tackled.

Cavan County Library has put together a fantastically well thought out selection of books that unapologetically talk about this vile form of discrimination.

This is an important selection of books that offers an insight into the real challenges that we face with regards to racism at home and abroad.

Though some of the stories may be fictitious, there's no doubt that these experiences of racism can be very real.

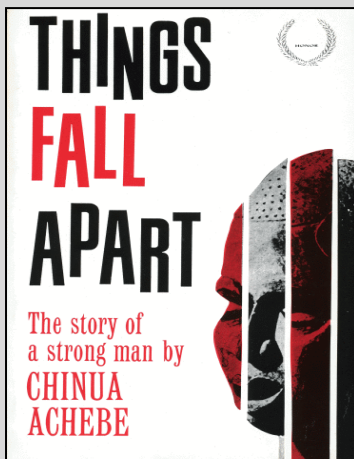
From Mandela's own personal papers of apartheid, to a page turner that documents racism and social change in Ireland – these books will leave the reader more open-minded about the world we live in when it comes to talking about race.

It's a list that could possibly change some of the negative attitudes we have here in Ireland if we were to put the books onto the school curriculum. They really are essential reading.

I hope that you enjoy them.

Úna-Minh Kavanagh

Race

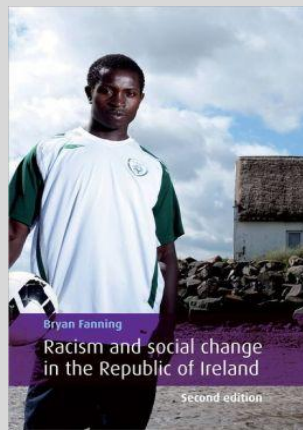


Things Fall Apart Chinua Achebe, 1958

The founding father of African fiction portrays, in his first novel, the collision of African and European cultures in an Igbo village.

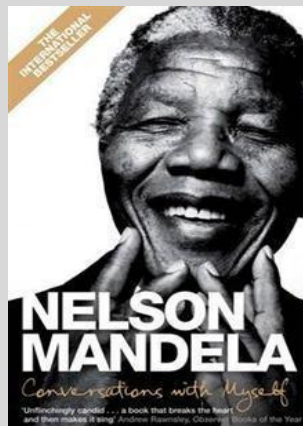
A passionate condemnation of racism and imperial arrogance, never bettered.

As Nelson Mandela stated: "There was a writer named Chinua Achebe, in whose company the prison walls fell down."



Racism and Social Change in the Republic of Ireland Bryan Fanning, 2nd edition 2012

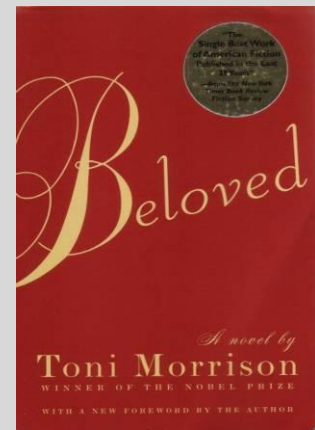
A challenging account of racism and Irish society. It delivers both an accessible history of racism and a useful critique of contemporary Irish policies. This book's real strength is the inclusion of original case studies that examine how modern Ireland marginalised black and ethnic minorities. The case for taking racism very seriously in 21st century Ireland is well made.



Conversations with Myself Nelson Mandela, 2010

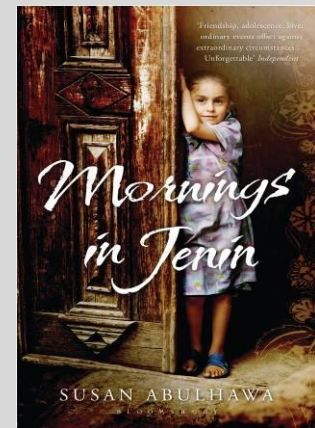
Books about and by Mandela have become an industry. This is the "must read" title. Intensely moving, raw, self-critical, unmediated and told in real time, it is brimming with substantive political and personal insights.

A collection of 80 years of private papers which reveals Mandela's thoughts on everything from apartheid, to marriage and to freedom.



Beloved Toni Morrison, 1987

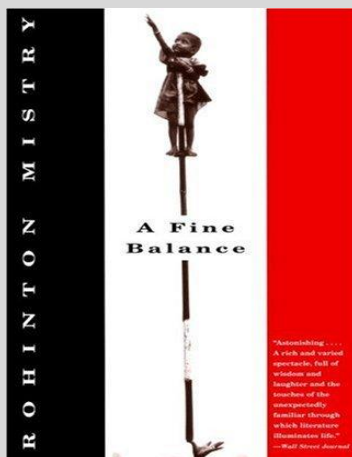
A Pulitzer Prize-winner, this story of racism and slavery is a dense, challenging but great read that has the power to shape the reader's opinion and understanding.



Mornings in Jenin Susan Abulhawa, 2010

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.

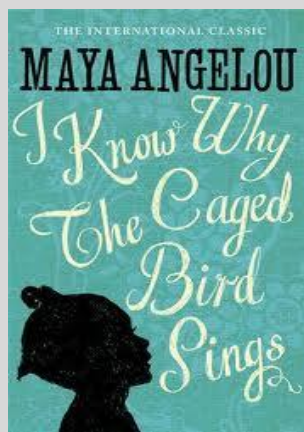


A Fine Balance Rohinton Mistry, 1995

Award-winning compassionate novel, which captures all the cruelty and corruption, dignity and heroism, of India.

Set in 1970s Mumbai during a period marked by huge political unrest and human rights violations, this book tells of four characters from varied backgrounds who come together and develop a bond.

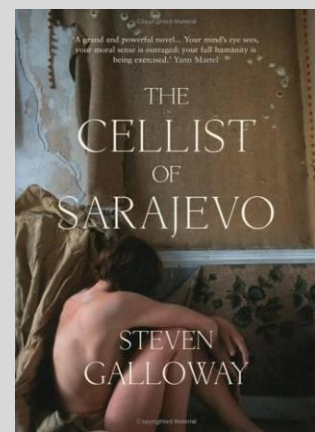
The central message? Freedom, equality and opportunity for all are crucially important for both individuals and society.



I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings Maya Angelou, 1969

The first in an autobiographical series about the early years of African-American writer Maya Angelou.

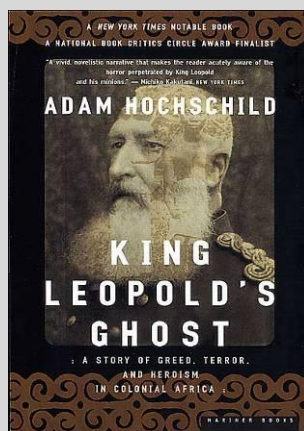
A coming-of-age story that illustrates how strength of character and a love of literature can help overcome trauma, it offers a searing critique of racism and explores the human quest for independence and personal dignity.



The Cellist of Sarajevo Steven Galloway, 2008

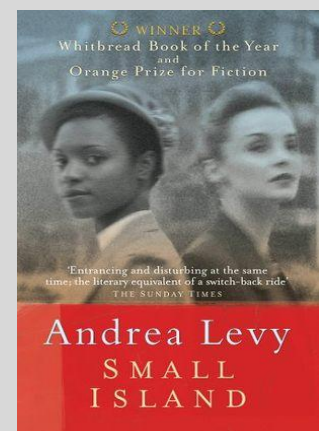
Poignant, lyrical and powerful, this novel is based on actual events that took place during the siege of Sarajevo.

It is about war, genocide and the endurance of the human spirit in the face of ethnic hatred and violence.



King Leopold's Ghost Adam Hochschild, 1998

This astonishing, award-winning book tells the story of the brutal subjugation of the Congo which resulted in the deaths of between 5 and 8 million people. Hochschild profiles several people who helped make the world aware of this awful reality. He highlights the key role played by Sir Roger Casement who put the force of the British government behind the international protest against Leopold.



Small Island Andrea Levy, 2004

An award-winning novel which is a masterful depiction of class, race, and prejudice in London in 1948.

Through four narrators, the author brings to life the dreams and fears of a generation, including a Jamaican newlywed and his young wife, Hortense.

Religion

“Things started to fall apart at home when my brother, Jaja, did not go to communion and Papa flung his heavy missal across the room and broke the figurines on the etagere.”

**Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie,
“Purple Hibiscus”**



This section, Religious Beliefs, is particularly significant as faith beliefs pervade all the other nine sections. These beliefs define our identity as individuals, families, societies and nations.

These beliefs are powerful. They are deeply held beliefs, which consciously and unconsciously, exert a profound influence on our actions, our attitudes and our decisions; particularly affecting our relationships with other people.

From being a clearly recognisable Roman Catholic State, Ireland is becoming a multi-national, multi-cultural and, as a consequence, a multi-faith society. Whilst religious practice in Ireland is changing, there is, nevertheless, a legacy of Roman Catholic moral values and attitudes, which continue to influence society in terms of legislation, of how we welcome the stranger and of how we respond to people who are different.

Those whom we see as “different” are also thinking, acting and deciding out of their particular faith, belief and culture. The challenge facing all of us is to recognise who we are and where we are coming from and also to work to understand what motivates and influences others in terms of their faith and culture.

Reverend Liz Hewitt

Religion

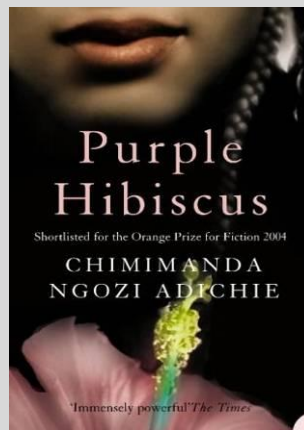


The Fethard-On-Sea Boycott **Tim Fanning, 2010**

In 1957, Sheila Cloney, Protestant wife of a Catholic farmer, fled her home after refusing to bow to the demands of the local Catholic clergy.

In response, the priests launched a boycott of Fethard's Protestant shopkeepers and farmers.

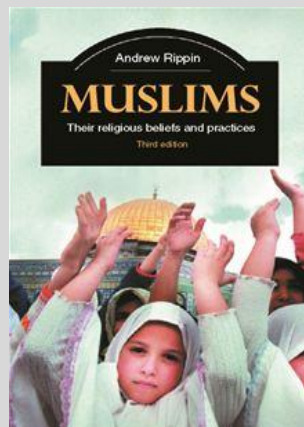
This is a superbly researched and thought-provoking account.



Purple Hibiscus **Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, 2003**

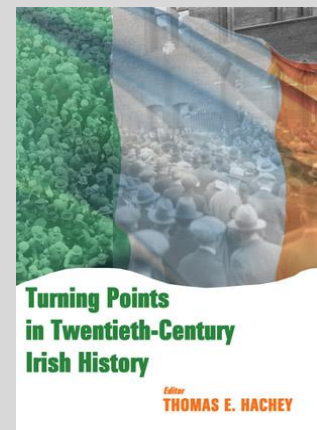
Set in post-colonial Nigeria, it features 15 year old Kambili whose world is defined by the high walls of her family estate and the dictates of her fanatically religious and abusive father.

A debut, award-winning novel which explores the nature of family, religious faith and country through complex and credible characters.



Muslims: their religious beliefs and practices **Andrew Rippin, 4th edition 2011**

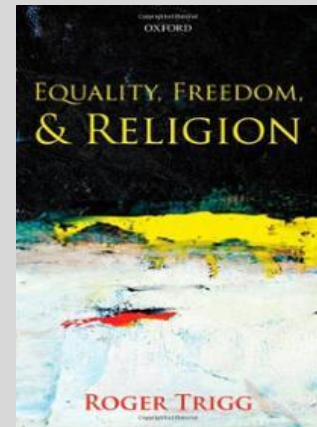
This authoritative guide provides a complete survey of Islamic history and thought from its formative period to the present day. It examines the unique elements that have combined to form Islam. It also addresses key issues, from fundamentalism and women's rights to problems of identity, Islamophobia and modernity.



Turning Points in Twentieth-Century Irish History **Thomas Hachey (Editor) 2011**

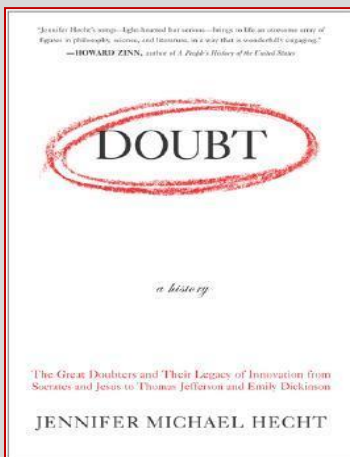
A collection with three great essays on the all-pervasive influence, until very recently, of the Catholic Church in Ireland.

Tom Garvin examines the reasons for the collapse of the Catholic Church's power and comes up with interesting conclusions.



Equality, Freedom, & Religion **Roger Trigg, 2012**

Examines the difficulties in balancing different rights, namely equality and the right to religious freedom. It asks provocative questions. Is religious freedom being curtailed in pursuit of equality? Is enough effort being made to accommodate those motivated by a religious conscience? Is the right to religious practice taking second place in the law to the pursuit of other social priorities?

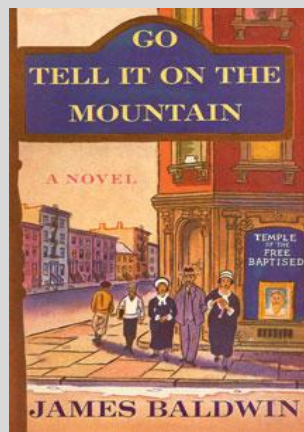


Doubt: a history Jennifer Hecht, 2003

An extraordinary book which provides a detailed history of doubt, reaching back to earliest records and up to the 21st century.

Spans the globe, bringing in a cast of characters, some well-known and some obscure, all strung together by the common thread of doubt.

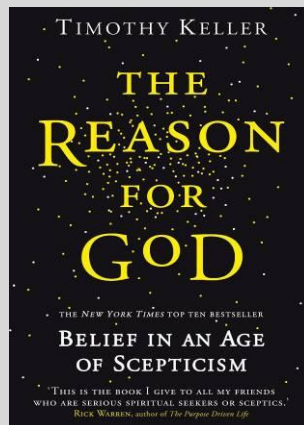
Don't be put off by its length or its ambition – this is an enjoyable read, written with sensitivity.



Go tell it on the Mountain James Baldwin, 1953

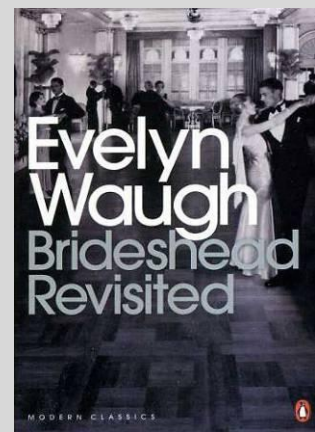
An American classic, this multi-faceted novel confronts many different themes. On the simplest level, it is the story of a young boy coming of age.

It is also the story of religion and racism, of familial expectations and perceptions, and how these forces impact people struggling to survive.



The Reason for God: Belief in an age of scepticism Timothy Keller, 2008

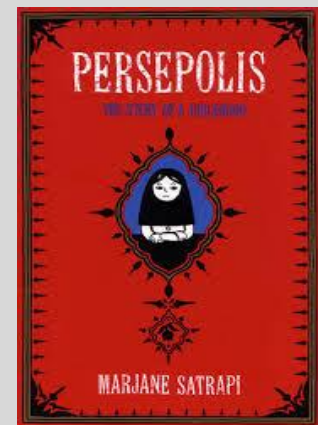
An overview of the faith debate for those who doubt and for those who want to re-evaluate what they believe, and why. Using literature, philosophy, pop-culture, and intellectual reasoning, Keller, a Presbyterian pastor, offers to "Believers" a solid platform on which to stand against the backlash toward religion.



Brideshead Revisited Evelyn Waugh, 1945

Catholicism is a significant theme of this classic novel. Waugh was a Catholic convert himself and the book is an attempt to express the Catholic faith in secular literary form.

Catholic themes of divine grace and reconciliation are pervasive and most of the major characters undergo a conversion.



Persepolis: the story of a childhood Marjane Satrapi, 2004

This autobiographical graphic novel of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution tells the story of a young life that witnessed the overthrow of the Shah's regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating effects of war with Iraq. Intensely personal, profoundly political, and wholly original, it is at once a story of growing up and a reminder of the human cost of war.

Sexual Orientation

“There was some open space between what he knew and what he tried to believe, but nothing could be done about it, and if you can't fix it you've got to stand it.”

**Annie Proulx,
“Brokeback Mountain”**

Annie Proulx, "Brokeback Mountain" from Close Range: Wyoming Stories. (c) 1997, 1999 by Dead Line, Ltd. Published by Scribner (US) and Fourth Estate (UK).



For those of us who love reading, books are like friends, or dream worlds, places of adventure, escape and enjoyment.

For lesbian and gay readers, the few books that reflect our lives, our loves and our hopes are doubly precious because they are so rare and stand out from other beloved books.

Growing up gay in Waterford, I was a regular and avid reader at the public library and forever grateful for all of those wonderful free books but gay lives or books were almost nonexistent, apart from “The Black Diaries of Roger Casement.” Few books reflected my own inner life and it was only when I encountered the novels of Kate O’Brien, an Irish middle-class writer who dared to represent cultivated beautiful and happy lesbian and gay characters in her works, that I felt a real sense of connection.

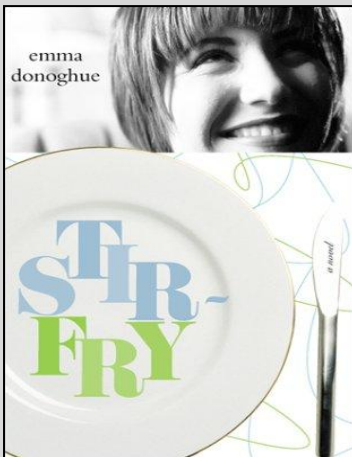
Some of the novels I encountered about gay lives were forbidding and unhappy, Gore Vidal’s “The Pillar and the City” and Radcliffe Hall’s miserable “The Well of Loneliness” and Colm Tóibín has charted these worlds admirably in his outstanding and lucid study “Love in a Dark Time”. E.M Forster’s “Maurice”, unpublished in his lifetime, was a revelation, an inspiring tale of an ordinary, middle-class man’s search for love and companionship, ending in a flight into the greenwood with the beloved, Scudder.

After that, much later, Edmund White’s “A Boy’s Own Story” moved gay fiction into the mainstream and gave a voice and a fictive identity to his generation and onwards to mine. Writers like Emma Donoghue and Colm Tóibín built on the imaginative space cleared by Edmund White to bring into being a contemporary Irish lesbian and gay literary identity. Above all, with “Brokeback Mountain”, both as a book and as a film, Annie Proulx’s story of passion and love between two men, tragically lost, has moved stories of gay life to the forefront. In my lifetime, something quietly magical has happened.

Gay books are now visible and available and ready to befriend all readers, gay and straight.

Dr. Eibhear Walshe

Sexual Orientation



Stir Fry **Emma Donoghue, 1994**

A clever, poignant and funny coming-of-age story by an award-winning writer.

A 17 year-old girl from rural Ireland goes to university in Dublin and accidentally moves in with a lesbian couple.

It explores how someone might stumble into questioning their sexual identity in the midst of friendship, and probes feminist ideas of sisterhood and non-possessiveness.



Coming Out: Irish gay experiences **Glen O'Brien, 2003**

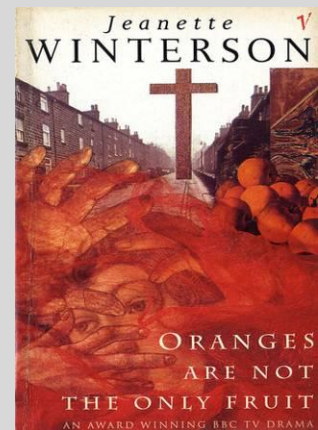
With a foreword by Colm Tóibín, this book details the experiences of Irish gay men, lesbians and bisexuals. Told by themselves, but also through the voices of parents, siblings, wives and children, this is a story of gay rights against a backdrop of oppression, suppression and repression.



Love in a Dark Time: gay lives from Wilde to Almodóvar **Colm Tóibín, 2003**

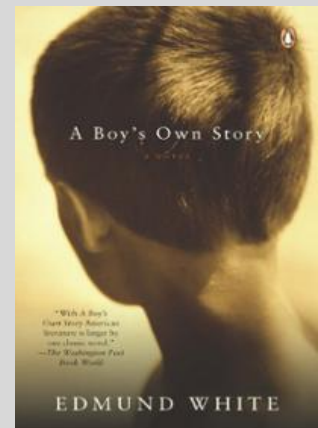
An essay collection about gay writers, artists, and public figures who, on the whole, kept their homosexuality hidden, either by choice or necessity.

Explores their impact on gay readers, who may find solace and sexual identity in the work of these great figures.



Oranges are not the Only Fruit **Jeanette Winterson, 1985**

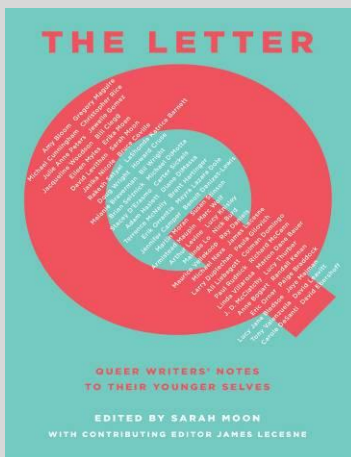
This award-winning, funny and tender novel tells the story of a girl growing up in a fundamentalist Christian home whose upbringing is marked by bible readings and the journey to find her true self. The girl's emerging lesbian identity is a theme beautifully explored.



"A Boy's Own Story" "The Beautiful Room Is Empty" and "The Farewell Symphony" – a trio of autobiographical novels.

Edmund White, 1982, 1988, 1997

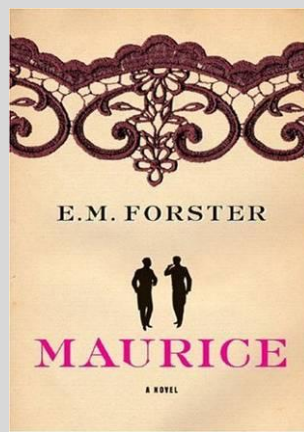
With intelligence, humour and also anger, White explores the life of a gay man from boyhood to late middle age and the most insidious aspects of oppression throughout. A stunning, original trilogy.



The Letter Q: queer writers' notes to their younger selves
Sarah Moon (Editor)
2012

Anthology in which 64 writers and illustrators make imaginative journeys into their pasts, telling us what they would have liked to have known about their lives as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgendered people.

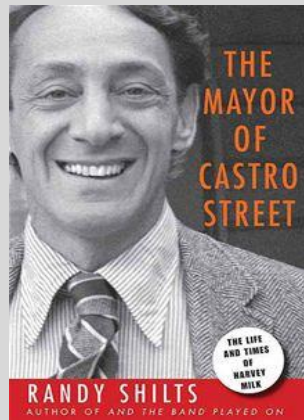
Reflecting different time periods and experiences, these letters will support young adults, hungry for community.



Maurice
E.M. Forster, 1971

Written during 1913 and 1914, but only published in 1971, tells the story of a young middle-class man searching for his own identity within a society which denies his desire for love with a person of the same sex.

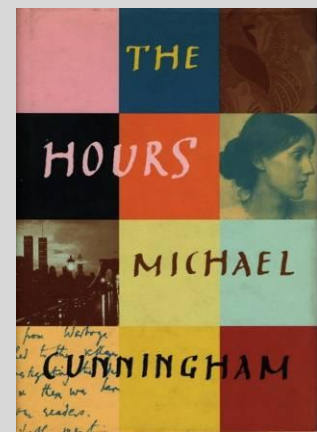
A classic novel, timeless in its plea for emotional and sexual honesty, and its criticism of society's repressive attitudes.



The Mayor of Castro Street: the life and times of Harvey Milk
Randy Shilts, 1982

Tells the story of Milk's personal life, public career, and final assassination. Full of personal tragedies and political intrigues.

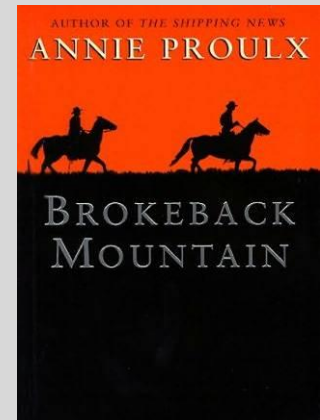
This book, by a critically acclaimed writer on gay issues for the mainstream, brought public attention to gay civil rights and discrimination issues and broke new ground for the gay community.



The Hours
Michael Cunningham, 1998

Multi-award winning novel that follows one day in the lives of three generations of questionably lesbian or bisexual women. Peripheral characters also exhibit a variety of sexual orientations.

Examines the freedom with which successive generations have been able to express their sexuality, to the public and to themselves.



Brokeback Mountain
Annie Proulx, 1997

Annie Proulx has written some of the most original and brilliant short stories and "Brokeback Mountain" is her masterpiece.

In gorgeous and haunting prose, Proulx tells the story of the difficult, dangerous affair between two cowboys that survives everything but the world's violent intolerance.

Membership of the Traveller Community

“As a traveller from Tuam, I have grown up in a world where if I walked into a pub someone would think twenty more of my kind would follow and cause trouble and cost the pub money...well it wasn't a traveller who robbed the country of billions...it wasn't a traveller who gave away trillions of euro in natural gas to Shell...”

Martin Warde,

“Traveller Writer Series 2010”



I feel very proud to be asked to give my thoughts on my life as a boxer and a traveller. I was born in Mullingar and lived there with my family until I married my childhood sweetheart, Marie. We set up home together and are now the proud parents of Martin, our 3 year old son. I went to St Marys C.B.S. and then to St. Marys College for a year. While I may not have been a brilliant student, I managed okay and am grateful for the time and effort of my teachers. Reading and writing were both a big help to me as I developed from a good young boxer through to being a champion.

I never experienced discrimination as a child because I had a strong family and friends to support me. Sometimes however I had a feeling that something had been said or done to my parents or to the older travellers, but these things were always kept from me. I still knew that there was something wrong.

I won my first Irish title at 11 years old. My brother in law David (Dan) Nevin was my earliest boxing hero and he went to the Cavan club and won numerous titles. Things were changing at home so myself and some of my cousins met the Cavan coach and he agreed to take us on. There were lots of problems with transfers but he battled on and the following year we were all winning Ulster and Irish titles. My first experience of prejudice was in the Youth All Ireland final when I was flued up yet was deprived of a clean sweep of All Ireland titles by a referee who gave me a public warning in the last round.

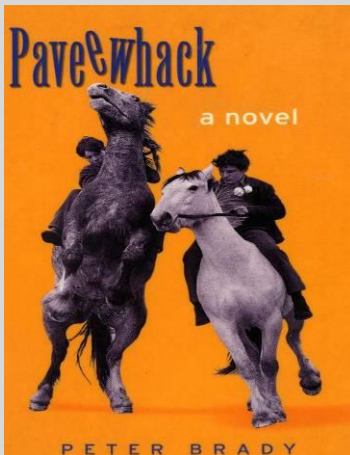
My first big international was the Brandenburg Cup in Germany as a 16 year old and my boxing there earned me selection for the World U.19 Championships. My career took off and I went on to win Irish U.21, Intermediate and Senior titles in my first year. Lots of travel and competition followed. At 18 I was the first Irish boxer to qualify for the Beijing Olympics. Beijing was really something for an 18 year old from Mullingar and I won my opening fight but was eliminated by the eventual Gold medallist and winner of the Val Barker trophy for best boxer of the Olympics. However, coming home was my first real experience of prejudice when my family had trouble getting a venue for the welcome home party. Four years later my parents and friends experienced the same treatment when they entered a premises to watch my Olympic final in London.

It is very sad, but these things just made me stronger and I have gone on to win an Olympic Silver medal, two World Championship bronze medals, a European title and have become Ireland's most successful male fighter. Even today my coach faces similar problems as he looks for venues for tournaments and is told that travellers are not welcome.

I cannot back down from these things but they will not go away. I only have to look at the good people that I have met in boxing, the High Performance Unit is my second family, my club and my coach are always special, my family and the boxing fans can see through it all. Just to finish, I would tell all young boxers to chase their dream and believe and anything can be achieved.

John Joe Nevin

Membership of the Traveller Community



Paveewhack: a novel Peter Brady, 2002

Teenage Traveller Jack Joyce must adapt to settled life after his father moves the family into a house in a small Midlands town.

Brady's richly textured debut novel is an acute look at Traveller culture, and the first novel ever to be written in the Cant dialect.

Combining black humour with stripped-down realism, Brady delivers a moving story against a backdrop of exclusion.



My life on the Road: an autobiography Nan Joyce, 2000

Nan's moving memoir tells of a rich and interesting life, despite poverty and discrimination, and is laced with humour, charity and love of life.

In an afterword, the author tells of her life since this classic autobiography was first published in 1985.



This is the Way Gavin Corbett, 2013

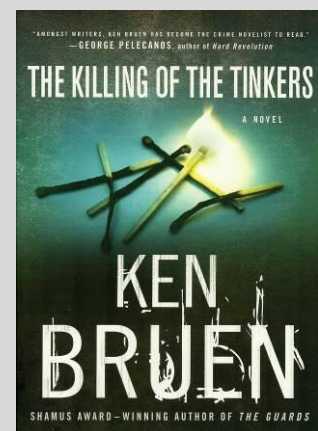
Corbett's second novel tells the story of Anthony Sonaghan, a modern-day Traveller who is in Dublin to lie low.

While there, he comes to terms with his powerful, mythic inheritance and begins to appreciate the strength of his heritage, but also its otherness.



Travellers and the Settled Community – a shared future M Ó hAodha, M Ward-Moriarty, J Heneghan, 2012

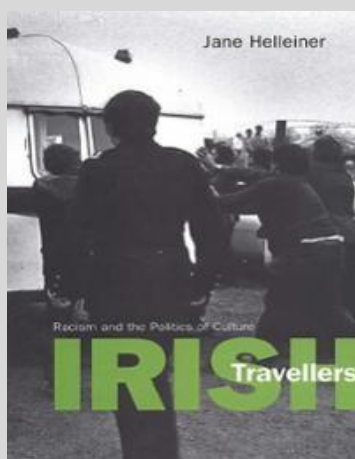
A collection of stories and essays written by Travellers and non-Travellers focusing on how both communities can be positively influenced by their experience of engagement. Encourages Travellers and the settled community to acknowledge how they are viewed from each other's perspective.



The Killing of the Tinkers Ken Bruen, 2002

A Traveller approaches Jack Taylor for help in solving the murders of a number of his clan. The Guards aren't interested, since, after all, "it's only tinkers... and everyone knows, they're always killing each other."

The quintessential outsider himself, Jack sets about investigating the killings.

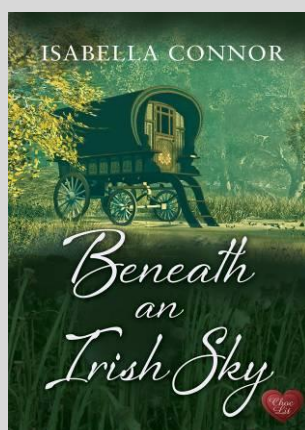


Irish Travellers: racism and the politics of culture

Joan Helleiner, 2000

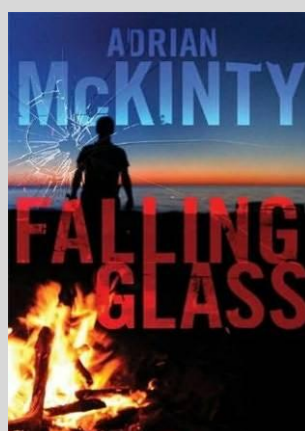
Documents anti-Traveller racism and explores the ongoing realities of Traveller life.

Through analyses of Traveller origins, local government records, the provincial press, and Irish parliamentary debates, a history of local and national anti-Traveller discourse and practice is revealed and linked to other social inequalities, including class, gender, and generation.



Beneath an Irish Sky
Isabella Connor, 2013

A gripping story of love and loss, where two worlds collide, bringing danger and unearthing dark family secrets. The real pleasure of this novel lies in the character of Luke, a young Irish traveller, who is thrust into an unknown world following a tragic accident. Irish Traveller culture is beautifully woven into the fabric of this novel. The atmosphere of suspicion between the Traveller community and the settled community is well conveyed.



Falling Glass
Adrian McKinty, 2011

A crime novel with a wonderful Irish Traveller character at its centre, full of insight and sardonic humour. Killian has been thwarted in his attempts to go straight by the demise of the Celtic Tiger and has returned to his previous living as an enforcer. Tasked with finding a man's drug-addicted ex-wife, he soon realises that her disappearance is about a lot more than denying access. He takes her to hide among the Travellers.



Traveller Writer Series 2010
Irish Traveller Movement

A selection of stories, articles, and thoughts of Irish Travellers on a wide range of topics.

Collected to commemorate Traveller Pride Week and demonstrate that Travellers have opinions and contributions to make on many issues in Irish society.



Irish Travellers: Tinkers No More
Alen MacWeeney, 2011

For over five years, MacWeeney photographed Irish Travellers, spending countless evenings in their caravans and by their campfires.

MacWeeney has crafted a profoundly beautiful record of a slowly vanishing way of life rarely seen by outsiders, let alone captured by a camera.

About our contributors



John Quinn trained as a teacher and worked in that profession for a decade. After a number of years as an editor, John joined RTÉ and delivered some of RTÉ's finest programmes. His radio work resulted not only in national awards and international acclaim, but also led to important publications. Following the untimely death of his wife Olive, John produced a deeply moving personal documentary. The books that followed are equally powerful. John is a much loved, award winning writer. Common threads shine through all his work. He believes in the importance of building up our human community in peace and civility.



Omagh-born Martina Devlin is a journalist and author. In 2012 she won the Royal Society of Literature's VS Pritchett Prize for a short story. Her books include "Banksters", co-authored with RTE's David Murphy, "Ship of Dreams" a novel about the Titanic, and a memoir, "The Hollow Heart." She writes a weekly current affairs column for the Irish Independent and was named 2011 columnist of the year by the National Newspapers of Ireland. She has also won a Hennessy Literary Award, was shortlisted twice for the Irish Book of the Year awards, and was writer-in-residence at the Princess Grace Irish Library in Monaco.



Founder of Kanchi and The Ability Awards, Caroline Casey is driving societal change aimed at a complete reframing of disability. Caroline's vision for Kanchi is to create an inclusive world for people with disabilities by engaging the business and media worlds on their own terms. The first Irish person to be appointed a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum, Caroline is also an Ashoka Fellow, an Eisenhower Fellow, and holds an honorary doctorate from National University Ireland. She travels the globe presenting at prestigious events. Caroline is visually impaired – however, she has never experienced this as a limitation.



Róisín Ingle is an Irish Times journalist and author. Collected together for the first time in her book "Pieces of Me: A Life-in-Progress", Róisín Ingle's weekly columns from The Irish Times Magazine display her disarmingly open style, always humorous, often deeply affecting. She muses on life, love, and everything in between. The columns are accompanied by new writings in which she reflects on the death of her father, her failed marriage, her unlikely path into journalism, and her long-standing love affair with Borza's fish and chips. Róisín lives in Dublin with her boyfriend and their two daughters. She believes all the best families are slightly dysfunctional.



Dr Leeann Lane, a graduate of UCC and Boston College, is Head of Irish Studies and Head of the School of Humanities at Mater Dei Institute of Education, Dublin. She has published on George Russell, on the children's novelist Patricia Lynch and is writer of one of our 100 Books with a Difference, "Rosamond Jacob: Third Person Singular". A course writer and tutor of a history module on a distance education Bachelor of Arts programme, Dr Lane was recently nominated to the Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations. She is currently working on a study of single women in the early Free State period and is a committee member of the Women's History Association of Ireland.



Baroness Nuala O'Loan DBE, MRIA is a member of the UK House of Lords and Chair of the Governing Authority of NUI Maynooth. Ireland's Roving Ambassador for Conflict Resolution and Special Envoy to Timor Leste, she also works with the International Contact Group Basque in Spain. As Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland, she was responsible for investigating the police. She has chaired and served on public bodies in areas as diverse as the European Union, Health, Transport, Policing, Human Rights and Energy. Her writing on justice, policing, and faith has been influential and she speaks regularly across the world. She has acted in an advisory capacity to government agencies responsible for policing and police accountability, in Africa, Asia, India, Europe and North and South America. She is the wife of Declan O'Loan MLA and they have 5 sons.



Úna-Minh Kavanagh was adopted from Vietnam by a Kerry woman and has been living in Ireland since she was six weeks old. The 22 year old, who has a degree in Irish and Journalism, now works as a journalist in Dublin. Throughout the years she's been the subject of racial abuse both verbal and physical because of how she looks. She hopes that by speaking out about her experiences, people will acknowledge that this still happens in Ireland and that something might be done about it.



Reverend Elizabeth Hewitt was ordained in 1983 to the Methodist Church in Ireland. She was officially welcomed as the Minister of the Methodist Church's Adare and Ballingrane Circuit in July 2011 and is Convener for Inter-Church Relations for the Methodist Church in Ireland. She served as Superintendent of Glenavy and Moira Circuit and as Chaplain in the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice. Reverend Hewitt worked with CRUSE Bereavement Care on a project entitled "Remember your Child."



Dr Eibhear Walshe is a senior lecturer in the Department of Modern English at University College Cork. His biography "Kate O'Brien: A Writing Life" was published in 2006 and he edited "Elizabeth Bowen: Visions and Revisions" in 2008. He was a section editor for "The Field Day Anthology of Irish Writing: Volume 4"; a contributor to "The New Dictionary of Biography" and guest edited "The Irish Review" in 2000. His other publications include a range of edited collections. He has completed a study of Wilde and Modern Ireland. His memoir, "Cissie's Abattoir" was published in 2009 and he has just completed his first novel.



John Joe Nevin was born in June 1989. He is a native of Mullingar, Co Westmeath. He attended Scoil Mhuire Christian Brothers School and is a member of the Traveller community. He won a gold medal in the bantamweight division in the European Amateur Championships in June 2013 when he outclassed Mykola Butsenko from Belarus. He won the Irish National Championships and qualified for the 2008 Summer Olympics at age 18 and four years later qualified for the 2012 Olympics where he won a silver medal. In the semi-final he defeated the reigning bantamweight world champion Lazaro Alvarez from Cuba. He is currently the number one ranked amateur bantamweight boxer in the world. He boxes out of the Cavan Boxing Club under Coach Brian McKeown.

“It came to my mind what a queer thing it was that my life should spend itself thus, almost entirely in love and care and fear and thought and anxiety over three men and a boy. Was I nothing but a being relative to them, without real existence of my own? Each one of them led his own life, had his centre in his own soul, as a human creature should, but I had no purpose or driving force in myself, nothing that was independent of them. It seemed absurd, futile, unworthy.”

Maggie Cullen, wife and mother of three sons, in “The Troubled House”
by Rosamond Jacob - Feminist, nationalist, civil and human rights activist.