

Brightness Of This Colum Mccann Side

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Dive into the brilliant mind and illuminating works of Colum McCann. This page uncovers the profound insights and unique perspectives that define his acclaimed literary career, offering a closer look at the brighter aspects of his storytelling and impact.

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This Side of Brightness

By the author of *Let the Great World Spin*, this critically acclaimed novel delves deep into the underbelly of New York 'Vivid, potent, beautifully measured, and sustained by astonishingly deft description' Maggie O'Farrell 'A dazzling blend of menace and heartbreak' New York Times Book Review _____ At the turn of the twentieth century, Nathan Walker comes to New York City to take the most dangerous job in the country: digging the tunnel far beneath the Hudson that will carry trains from Brooklyn to Manhattan. In the bowels of the riverbed, the workers - black, white, Irish and Italian - dig together, the darkness erasing all differences. But above ground, the men keep their distance until a dramatic accident on a bitter winter's day welds a bond between Walker and his fellow workers that will both bless and curse three generations. Almost ninety years later, a homeless man nicknamed Treefrog stumbles on the same tunnels and sets about creating a home amongst the drug addicts, alcoholics, prostitutes and petty criminals that comprise the forgotten homeless community.

Let the Great World Spin

NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER • Colum McCann's beloved novel inspired by Philippe Petit's daring high-wire stunt, which is also depicted in the film *The Walk* starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt In the dawning light of a late-summer morning, the people of lower Manhattan stand hushed, staring up in disbelief at the Twin Towers. It is August 1974, and a mysterious tightrope walker is running, dancing, leaping between the towers, suspended a quarter mile above the ground. In the streets below, a slew of ordinary lives become extraordinary in bestselling novelist Colum McCann's stunningly intricate portrait of a city and its people. *Let the Great World Spin* is the critically acclaimed author's most ambitious novel yet: a dazzlingly rich vision of the pain, loveliness, mystery, and promise of New York City in the 1970s. Corrigan, a radical young Irish monk, struggles with his own demons as he lives among the prostitutes in the middle of the burning Bronx. A group of mothers gather in a Park Avenue apartment to mourn their sons who died in Vietnam, only to discover just how much divides them even in grief. A young artist finds herself at the scene of a hit-and-run that sends her own life careening sideways.

Tillie, a thirty-eight-year-old grandmother, turns tricks alongside her teenage daughter, determined not only to take care of her family but to prove her own worth. Elegantly weaving together these and other seemingly disparate lives, McCann's powerful allegory comes alive in the unforgettable voices of the city's people, unexpectedly drawn together by hope, beauty, and the "artistic crime of the century." A sweeping and radical social novel, *Let the Great World Spin* captures the spirit of America in a time of transition, extraordinary promise, and, in hindsight, heartbreaking innocence. Hailed as a "fiercely original talent" (San Francisco Chronicle), award-winning novelist McCann has delivered a triumphantly American masterpiece that awakens in us a sense of what the novel can achieve, confront, and even heal. Praise for *Let the Great World Spin* "This is a gorgeous book, multilayered and deeply felt, and it's a damned lot of fun to read, too. Leave it to an Irishman to write one of the greatest-ever novels about New York. There's so much passion and humor and pure life force on every page of *Let the Great World Spin* that you'll find yourself giddy, dizzy, overwhelmed."—Dave Eggers "Stunning . . . [an] elegiac glimpse of hope . . . It's a novel rooted firmly in time and place. It vividly captures New York at its worst and best. But it transcends all that. In the end, it's a novel about families—the ones we're born into and the ones we make for ourselves."—USA Today "The first great 9/11 novel . . . We are all dancing on the wire of history, and even on solid ground we breathe the thinnest of air."—Esquire "Mesmerizing . . . a Joycean look at the lives of New Yorkers changed by a single act on a single day . . . Colum McCann's marvelously rich novel . . . weaves a portrait of a city and a moment, dizzyingly satisfying to read and difficult to put down."—The Seattle Times "Vibrantly whole . . . With a series of spare, gorgeously wrought vignettes, Colum McCann brings 1970s New York to life. . . . And as always, McCann's heart-stoppingly simple descriptions wow."—Entertainment Weekly "An act of pure bravado, dizzying proof that to keep your balance you need to know how to fall."—O: The Oprah Magazine

This Side of Brightness

Colum McCann is one of the most important Irish writers in contemporary literary fiction. His work has been critically acclaimed across the globe for its artistic achievement, its thematic range and its ethical force. *This Side of Brightness: Essays on the Fiction of Colum McCann* is the first collection of scholarly essays to deal with McCann's oeuvre, drawing on the pioneering critical work of some of the leading figures in Irish literary studies. Touching on a host of central themes in McCann's writing - emigration, race, performance, poverty, travel, nationality and globalization - the volume covers each of McCann's publications and includes a substantial interview with the author. The book is an invaluable resource for current and future scholars of the Irish novel.

Thirteen Ways of Looking

From the National Book Award-winning and bestselling author of *Let the Great World Spin* and *TransAtlantic*, comes a novella and three stories of immediate power and grace 'A superbly crafted and deeply moving collection of fiction...underscores [McCann's] reputation as a contemporary master' Kirkus 'Separate and together, these four works prove McCann a master with a poet's ear, a psychologist's understanding, and a humanitarian's conscience' Publishers Weekly _____ A story in this collection has been longlisted for the Sunday Times EFG short story award As it was, it was like being set down in the best of poems, carried into a cold landscape, blindfolded, turned around, unblindfolded, forced, then, to invent new ways of seeing. It is a cold day in January when J. Mendelssohn wakes in his Upper East Side apartment. Old and frail, he is entirely reliant on the help of his paid carer, and as he waits for the heating to come on, the clacking of the pipes stirs memories of the past; of his childhood in Lithuania and Dublin, of his distinguished career as a judge, and of his late wife, Eileen. Later he leaves the house to meet his son Elliot for lunch, and when Eliot departs mid-meal, Mendelssohn continues eating alone as the snow falls heavily outside. Moments after he leaves the restaurant he is brutally attacked. The detectives working on the case search through the footage of Mendelssohn's movements, captured by cameras in his home and on the street. Their work is like that of a poet: the search for a random word that, included at the right instance, will suddenly make sense of everything. Told from a multitude of perspectives, in lyrical, hypnotic prose, *Thirteen Ways of Looking* is a ground-breaking novella of true resonance. Accompanied by three equally powerful stories set in Afghanistan, Galway and London, this is a tribute to humanity's search for meaning and grace, from a writer at the height of his form, capable of imagining immensities even in the smallest corners of our lives.

'Beautiful, thoughtful ... sharp and scintillatingly sensual' Independent 'With this haunting, poetic work McCann has surely earned his place among the country's greats' Metro _____ The life of Zoli Novotna begins on the leafy backroads of Slovakia, when she and her grandfather come upon a quiet lake where their family has been drowned by Fascist guards. Zoli and her grandfather flee to join up with another clan of travelling harpists. So begins an epic tale of song, intimacy and betrayal. Based loosely on the true story of the Gypsy poet Papusza, and set against the backdrop of the Second World War, Zoli is a love story, a tale of loss, and a parable of modern-day Europe.

Songdogs

Colum McCann's first novel goes back to the years before the Spanish Civil War, following the adventures of a peripatetic Irish photographer from the war-strewn shores of Europe to the exotic plains of Mexico. The story is told in the words of the photographer's only son, a wanderer himself, who uses his father's unreliable memories and the fading remnants of his art to piece together his family history and explain the mystery surrounding his mother - a Mexican beauty brought back by his father to Ireland.

Territorial Terrors

I hope there is something here for any young writer – or any older writer, for that matter – who happens to be looking for a teacher to come along, a teacher who, in the end, can really teach nothing at all but fire. From the critically acclaimed Colum McCann, author of the National Book Award winner *Let the Great World Spin*, comes a paean to the power of language, and a direct address to the artistic, professional and philosophical concerns that challenge and sometimes torment an author. Comprising fifty-two short prose pieces, *Letters to a Young Writer* ranges from practical matters of authorship, such as finding an agent, the pros and cons of creative writing degrees and handling bad reviews, through to the more joyous and celebratory, as McCann elucidates the pleasures to be found in truthful writing, for: 'the best writing makes us glad that we are – however briefly – alive.' Emphatic and empathetic, pragmatic and profound, this is an essential companion to any author's journey – and a deeply personal work from one of our greatest literary voices.

Letters to a Young Writer

'Remarkable ... nimble, lyrical and wispy' Sunday Times 'An utterly riveting, frequently moving, and staggeringly well-written book' Daily Mail 'Breathtaking' Guardian _____ This novel opens on a battlefield: trudging back from the front through a ravaged and icy wasteland, their horses dying around them, their own hunger rendering them almost savage, the Russian soldiers are exhausted as they reach the city of Ufa, desperate for food and shelter. They find both, and then music and dance. And there, spinning unafraid among them, dancing for the soldiers and anyone else who'll watch him, is one small pale boy, Rudolf. This is Colum McCann's dancer: Rudolf, a prodigy at six years old, who became the greatest dancer of the century, who redefined dance, rewrote his own life, and died of AIDS before anyone knew he had it. This is an extraordinary life transformed into extraordinary fiction by one of the most acclaimed writers of his generation. One kind of masculine grace is perfectly matched to another in Colum McCann's beautiful and daring new novel.

Dancer

In 1919 Emily Ehrlich watches as two young airmen, Alcock and Brown, emerge from the carnage of World War One to pilot the very first non-stop transatlantic flight from Newfoundland to the west of Ireland. In 1845 Frederick Douglass, a black American slave, lands in Ireland to champion ideas of democracy and freedom, only to find a famine unfurling at his feet. And in 1998 Senator George Mitchell criss-crosses the ocean in search of an elusive Irish peace. Stitching these stories intricately together, Colum McCann sets out to explore the fine line between what is real and what is imagined, and the tangled skein of connections that make up our lives.

TransAtlantic

Colum McCann's *Everything in This Country Must*, a writer of fierce originality and haunting lyricism, turns to the troubles in Northern Ireland and reveals the reverberations of political tragedy in the most intimate lives of men and women, parents and children. In the title story, a teenage girl must choose between allegiance to her Catholic father and gratitude to the British soldiers who have saved the

family's horse. The young hero of *Hunger Strike*, a novella, tries to replicate the experience of his uncle, an IRA prisoner on hunger strike. And in *Wood*, a small boy does his part for the Protestant marches, concealing his involvement from his blind father. Writing in a new form, but with the skill and force and sparkling poetry that have brought him international acclaim, Colum McCann has delivered masterful, memorable short fiction.

Everything in This Country Must

In two magical scenes, almost ninety years apart, McCann sets in motion a novel of extraordinary scope and rich beauty. Ostensibly a love story in three generations, the novel is about many other things: about the building and decline of America; about the races who live there; about love, hope and despair but most of all about the survival of the human spirit.

This Side of Brightness

EIGHTY PIECES OF SHORT FICTION AND NONFICTION ON MANHOOD BY SOME OF THE WORLD'S BEST WRITERS, PRESENTED BY COLUM MCCANN, ESQUIRE, AND NARRATIVE 4
To help launch the literary nonprofit Narrative 4, Esquire asked eighty of the world's greatest writers to chip in with a story, all with the title, "How to Be a Man." The result is *The Book of Men*, an unflinching investigation into the essence of masculinity. The *Book of Men* probes, with the poignant honesty and imagination that only these writers could deliver, the slippery condition of manhood. You will find men striving and searching, learning and failing to learn, triumphing and aspiring; men who are lost and men navigating their way toward redemption. These stories don't just explore what it is to be a man or how to achieve manliness, but ultimately what it is to be a human—with all of its uncertainty, complexity, clumsiness, and beauty. With contributions from literary luminaries as diverse as the subjects they capture, and curated by the editors of Esquire, National Book Award winner Colum McCann, and Narrative 4, a global nonprofit devoted to using storytelling as a means to empathy, *The Book of Men* might not teach you how to negotiate a deal or mix a Manhattan, but it does scratch at that most eternal of questions: What is a man?

The Book of Men

The last of a manufacturing dynasty in a dying industrial town, Bill lives alone in the family mansion and works for the Truth, the moribund local paper. He yearns to write long philosophical pieces about the American dream gone sour, not the flaccid write-ups of bake-off contests demanded by the Truth. Then, old man Lawton goes missing, and suspicion fixes on his son, Ronny. Paradoxically, the specter of violent death breathes new life into the town. For Bill, a deeper and more disturbing involvement with the Lawtons ensues. The Lawton murder and the obsessions it awakes in the town come to symbolize the mood of a nation on the edge. Compulsively readable, *The Keepers of Truth* startles both with its insights and with Collins's powerful, incisive writing.

The Keepers of Truth

An ageing nun is tracked to ground by her sister; a garrulous beautician must lay out the corpse of a loved one. These are eloquent tales of exile and displacement, of characters always in search of a way back home or of a way to leave it. Mischievous, assured and versatile, Colum McCann's collection of short stories marks him out as one of our best contemporary writers.

Fishing the Sloe-Black River

This innovative study looks at the formation of ethnic and racial identities in relation to the development of urban culture. The concept of urban space provides the means of organization for comprehensive illustrations of a series of themes, including white paranoia and urban decline; imagined urban communities; urban crime and justice; the racialized underclass; globalization; and new ethnicities. *Race and Urban Space in American Culture* focuses on a wide range of contemporary film and literature (including works by African-American, Irish-American, Hispanic, Puerto Rican, and Iranian-American authors), and examines the ways in which representations of urban space define issues of rights, community and citizenship.

Race and Urban Space in American Culture

Rami Elhanan și Bassam Aramin trăiesc aproape unul de celălalt – ei totuși sunt complet diferiți. Rami este israelian. Bassam este palestinian. Plăcuța de înmatriculare a lui Rami este galbenă. Plăcuța de înmatriculare a lui Bassam este verde. Rami face cincisprezece minute cu mașina până în Cisiordania. Același drum îi ia lui Bassam o oră și jumătate. Ambii bărbai și-au pierdut fiicele. Fata de treisprezece ani a lui Rami, Smadar, a fost ucisă într-un atentat sinuciga în timp ce se ducea să se cumpere cărți împreună cu prietenele ei. Fiica lui Bassam, Abir, în vârstă de zece ani, a fost ucisă cu un glon de cauciuc de un membru al poliției de frontieră în fața colii. În buzunar avea o brățară de dropsuri pe care nu apucase să le mănânce. Rami și Bassam au fost crescuți și se urăsc unul pe celălalt. Ei totuși devin cei mai buni prieteni. În acest roman epic – numit după un poligon cu un număr de laturi infinit numărabil –, Colum McCann străbate secole și continente, realizând o esență în care timpul, arta, istoria, natura și politica alcătuiesc o tapiserie de prietenie, dragoste, pierdere și apartenență. Muzical, plin de forță, delicat și ambițios, Apeirogon este romanul vremurilor noastre. „Apeirogon nu seamănă cu nici o carte pe care ați citit-o vreodată... Veți descoperi o formă narativă fără precedent și profund autentic. Vă pot spune doar atât: citiți cartea lui McCann. Este o carte importantă.” Michael Cunningham „McCann face o echilibristică perfectă între viață și artă; scriind cu un lirism și o empatie extraordinară, surprinde modul în care se propagă atât efectele provocate de violență și durere, cât și frumusețea și puterea miraculoasă a prieteniei și a iubirii, a curajului și a adevărului.” Booklist „Un apeirogon este un poligon cu un număr infinit de laturi – iar cartea transcendentă a lui Colum McCann este plină de sute de segmente emoționale care îndeamnă la reflecție. McCann transformă aceste realități crude în ficțiune captivantă, și o face cu o imensă forță poetică.” Independent „Orbitor... hipnotic... sfâșietor și fascinant... Pe lângă strălucirea caleidoscopică a narațiunii, aceasta este și o poveste profund umană.” San Francisco Chronicle

Apeirogon

A Kirkus Reviews Best Nonfiction Book of 2021 Family secrets emerge as a best-selling author dives into the history of the mob in small-town America. Best-selling author Russell Shorto, praised for his incisive works of narrative history, never thought to write about his own past. He grew up knowing his grandfather and namesake was a small-town mob boss but maintained an unspoken family vow of silence. Then an elderly relative prodded: You're a writer—what are you gonna do about the story? Smalltime is a mob story straight out of central casting—but with a difference, for the small-town mob, which stretched from Schenectady to Fresno, is a mostly unknown world. The location is the brawny postwar factory town of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The setting is City Cigar, a storefront next to City Hall, behind which Russ and his brother-in-law, “Little Joe,” operate a gambling empire and effectively run the town. Smalltime is a riveting American immigrant story that travels back to Risorgimento Sicily, to the ancient, dusty, hill-town home of Antonino Sciotto, the author's great-grandfather, who leaves his wife and children in grinding poverty for a new life—and wife—in a Pennsylvania mining town. It's a tale of Italian Americans living in squalor and prejudice, and of the rise of Russ, who, like thousands of other young men, created a copy of the American establishment that excluded him. Smalltime draws an intimate portrait of a mobster and his wife, sudden riches, and the toll a lawless life takes on one family. But Smalltime is something more. The author enlists his ailing father—Tony, the mobster's son—as his partner in the search for their troubled patriarch. As secrets are revealed and Tony's health deteriorates, the book becomes an urgent and intimate exploration of three generations of the American immigrant experience. Moving, wryly funny, and richly detailed, Smalltime is an irresistible memoir by a masterful writer of historical narrative.

Smalltime: A Story of My Family and the Mob

The follow-up to *The Single Soldier*: A powerful novel set in a small French village as one man is caught between war and peace, heartache and hope... The Germans have left, the war is over, and his home has been rebuilt—but a home is just a set of empty rooms without people and love. Around him, the community tries to rekindle their lives, and rediscover their reasons for surviving. As the soldier waits for the return of his love, the world keeps moving, threatening to leave his hopes and dreams behind—and his soul remains troubled, until peace finally arrives from a very unexpected source... Praise for *The Single Soldier*: “Magnificent.” —Willy Russell, author of *Blood Brothers* and *Educating Rita*

This Side of Brightness 18 X Bin

When Irish culture and economics underwent rapid changes during the Celtic Tiger Years, Anne Enright, Colum McCann and Éilís Ní Dhuibhne began writing. Now that period of Irish history has closed, this study uncovers how their writing captured that unique historical moment. By showing how Ní

Dhuibhne's novels act as considered arguments against attempts to disavow the past, how McCann's protagonists come to terms with their history and how Enright's fiction explores connections and relationships with the female body, Susan Cahill's study pinpoints common concerns for contemporary Irish writers: the relationship between the body, memory and history, between generations, and between past and present. Cahill is able to raise wider questions about Irish culture by looking specifically at how writers engage with the body. In exploring the writers' concern with embodied histories, related questions concerning gender, race, and Irishness are brought to the fore. Such interrogations of corporeality alongside history are imperative, making this a significant contribution to ongoing debates of feminist theory in Irish Studies.

The Soldier's Home

One August morning in 1974, a tightrope walker makes his way, through the dawn light, between the World Trade Center towers. In the streets below, a slew of ordinary lives become extraordinary in this stunningly intricate portrait of a city and its people. Corrigan, a radical, young Irish monk, struggles with his demons in the burning Bronx. A group of mothers gathers in a Park Avenue apartment to mourn their sons who have died in Vietnam. Farther uptown, Tillie, a thirty-eight-year-old grandmother, turns tricks alongside her teenaged daughter, determined to take care of her babies and to prove her own worth. Hailed as an American masterpiece, McCann's powerful allegory of 9/11 comes alive in the unforgettable voices of these, and other, seemingly disparate characters, drawn together by hope, beauty and the tightrope walker's "artistic crime of the century." McCann's most ambitious work to date, *Let the Great World Spin* is a triumphant novel.

Irish Literature in the Celtic Tiger Years 1990 to 2008

A Time of Blood, the second book in the *Of Blood and Bone* series, is the spectacular follow-up to *A Time of Dread* by John Gwynne. Defy the darkness. Defend the light . . . At the battle of Starstone Lake, Drem and his friends witnessed horrors they'll never forget. They saw magic warping men into beasts and a demon rise from the dead, creating something new and terrifying. So they flee to warn the Order of the Bright Star. But the demons' high priestess, Fritha, is determined to hunt them down. Concealed in Forn Forest, Riv struggles to understand her half-breed lineage. It represents the warrior angels' most dangerous secret, so when their high captain tracks her down, he aims to kill. Meanwhile, demonic forces are gathering a mighty war-host, to crush their enemies and rule the world of man. And the angels are already fractured and facing betrayal. Like heroes of old, Riv, Drem and the Bright Star's warriors must battle to save their land. But can the light triumph when the dark is rising? Continue the heroic fantasy series with *A Time of Courage*. 'Reminds me of why I became a fantasy enthusiast in the first place' – Robin Hobb on *A Time of Dread*. 'A great read that accelerates the pace and goes one up on its excellent predecessor . . . Exciting, action-packed fantasy' – Mark Lawrence, author of *Prince of Thorns* 'This is extraordinarily good, an epic feat of the imagination. In this series Gwynne is setting a new benchmark in fantasy. I'd love to see it on screen' – Giles Kristian, author of *Lancelot*

Let The Great World Spin

The intertext is the effective presence of a text in another one. This relation of co-presence between texts is the subject of the present essay. Colum McCann's work is studied here as a mosaic of references to and quotations from other texts. In its dialogue with other texts, it absorbs and transforms them, and lets itself transformed by them. The multiple and complex relations that exist between them are approached in both synchronic and diachronic terms. Various modes of intertextuality -- influence, intentionality, authority -- are analyzed here and applied to McCann's complete work. His novels and short stories denote a transposition of texts taken from the Bible or Irish mythology, but also Anglo-Saxon novels, plays or poems. Through McCann's work, the present study highlights the articulation and interdependence of literary texts.

A Time of Blood

Hood is a powerful and moving story of a hidden, secret grief from Emma Donoghue, the author of *Room*. Penelope O'Grady and Cara Wall are risking disaster when, like teenagers in any intolerant time and place – here, a Dublin convent school in the late 1970s – they fall in love. Yet Cara, the free spirit, and Pen, the stoic, craft a bond so strong it seems as though nothing could sever it: not the bickering, not the secrets, not even Cara's infidelities. But thirteen years on, a car crash kills Cara and rips the lid off Pen's world. Pen is still in the closet, teaching at her old school, living under the roof

of Cara's gentle father, who thinks of her as his daughter's friend. How can she survive widowhood without even daring to claim the word? Over the course of one surreal week of bereavement, she is battered by memories that range from the humiliating, to the exalted, to the erotic, to the funny. It will take Pen all her intelligence and wit to sort through her tumultuous past with Cara, and all the nerve she can muster to start remaking her life.

Colum McCann's Intertexts

'A modern work of genius' Spectator Winner of the Costa/Whitbread Book of the Year Award 1993
Forced into slavery as a child, Jonathan Carrick escapes to a new life but within him lies the need for revenge against George Stokes, the son of his former master. Mallory Carrick, confined to a wheelchair, seeks to find out the truth about her grandfather's history. Haunting, elegant and passionate, *Theory of War* is a novel about how the past lives on through following generations. It follows one woman's journey to discover what her grandfather might have experienced and how his suffering still haunts his descendants.

Hood

Understanding Colum McCann chronicles the Irish-born writer's journey to literary celebrity from his days as a teenage sportswriter for the Irish Press in the 1970s, through the publication of his award-winning first story, "Tresses," in 1990, to his winning the 2009 National Book Award in fiction for the international bestseller *Let the Great World Spin*. In this first critical study of McCann's body of work, John Cusatis provides an introduction to McCann's life and career; an overview of his major themes, style, and influences; and close readings of his two short story collections and five novels. Cusatis traces McCann's redefinition of the Irish novel, exploring the author's propensity for transcending aesthetic, cultural, ethnic, geographical, and social boundaries in his ascent from the status of "Irish novelist" to "international novelist." In the process, this study illuminates the various incarnations of McCann's perennial subject: exile, both geographical and emotional. Cusatis also delineates how the influences of McCann's Irish upbringing, penchant for international travel, and exhaustive and eclectic reading of literature manifest themselves in his fiction. Close attention is given to McCann's stylistic trademarks, such as his poetic voice, use of Christian symbolism, Irish and classical mythology, intertextuality, multiple viewpoints, nonlinear plot structure, and the merger of what McCann deems "factual truth" and "textual truth." *Understanding Colum McCann* makes use of the existing body of published interviews, profiles, and critical articles, as well as a decade of correspondence between Cusatis and McCann. With international interest in McCann on the rise, this first full-length study of his career to date serves as an ideal point of entrance for students, scholars, and serious readers, and offers the biographical and critical foundation necessary for a deeper understanding of McCann's fiction.

Theory of War

A career-spanning collection of Bruce Berger's beautiful, subtle, and spiky essays on the American desert. Occupying a space between traditional nature writing, memoir, journalism, and prose poetry, Bruce Berger's essays are beautiful, subtle, and haunting meditations on the landscape and culture of the American Southwest. Combining new, unpublished essays with selections from his acclaimed trilogy of "desert books"—*The Telling Distance*, *There Was a River*, and *Almost an Island*—*A Desert Harvest* is a career-spanning selection of the best work by this unique and undervalued voice. Wasteland architecture, mountaintop astronomy, Bach in the wilderness, the mind of the wood rat, the canals of Phoenix, and the numerous eccentric personalities who call the desert their home all come to life in these fascinating portraits of America's seemingly desolate terrains.

Understanding Colum McCann

A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK • "[Mat Johnson's] unrelenting examination of blackness, whiteness and everything in between is handled with ruthless candor and riotous humor."—Los Angeles Times
"Razor-sharp . . . *Loving Day* is that rare mélange: cerebral comedy with pathos."—The New York Times Book Review
NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY The New York Times • San Francisco Chronicle • NPR • Men's Journal • The Miami Herald • The Denver Post • Slate • The Kansas City Star • San Antonio Express-News • Time Out New York
Warren Duffy has returned to America for all the worst reasons: His marriage to a beautiful Welsh woman has come apart; his comics shop in Cardiff has failed; and his Irish American father has died, bequeathing to Warren his last possession, a roofless, half-renovated mansion in the heart of black Philadelphia. On his first night in

his new home, Warren spies two figures outside in the grass. When he screws up the nerve to confront them, they disappear. The next day he encounters ghosts of a different kind: In the face of a teenage girl he meets at a comics convention he sees the mingled features of his white father and his black mother, both now dead. The girl, Tal, is his daughter, and she's been raised to think she's white. Spinning from these revelations, Warren sets off to remake his life with a reluctant daughter he's never known, in a haunted house with a history he knows too well. In their search for a new life, he and Tal struggle with ghosts, fall in with a utopian mixed-race cult, and ignite a riot on Loving Day, the unsung holiday for interracial lovers. A frequently hilarious, surprisingly moving story about blacks and whites, fathers and daughters, the living and the dead, Loving Day celebrates the wonders of opposites bound in love. Praise for Loving Day "Incisive . . . razor-sharp . . . that rare mélange: cerebral comedy with pathos. The vitality of our narrator deserves much of the credit for that. He has the neurotic bawdiness of Philip Roth's Alexander Portnoy; the keen, caustic eye of Bob Jones in Chester Himes's *If He Hollers Let Him Go*; the existential insight of Ellison's *Invisible Man*."—The New York Times Book Review "Exceptional . . . To say that Loving Day is a book about race is like saying *Moby-Dick* is a book about whales. . . . [Mat Johnson's] unrelenting examination of blackness, whiteness and everything in between is handled with ruthless candor and riotous humor. . . . Even when the novel's family strife and racial politics are at peak intensity, Johnson's comic timing is impeccable."—Los Angeles Times "Johnson, at his best, is a powerful comic observer [and] a gifted writer, always worth reading on the topics of race and privilege."—Dwight Garner, The New York Times

A Desert Harvest

Old God's Time (March 2023), Sebastian Barry's stunning new novel, available to pre-order now Following the end of the First World War, Eneas McNulty joins the British-led Royal Irish Constabulary. With all those around him becoming soldiers of a different kind, however, it proves to be the defining decision of his life when, having witnessed the murder of a fellow RIC policeman, he is wrongly accused of identifying the executioners. With a sentence of death passed over him he is forced to flee Sligo, his friends, family and beloved girl, Viv. What follows is the story of this flight, his subsequent wanderings, and the haunting pull of home that always afflicts him. Tender, witty, troubling and tragic, *The Whereabouts of Eneas McNulty* tells the secret history of a lost man.

Loving Day

A unique love story, a tale of loss, a parable of Europe, this haunting novel is an examination of intimacy and betrayal in a community rarely captured so vibrantly in contemporary literature. Zoli Novotna, a young woman raised in the traveling Gypsy tradition, is a poet by accident as much as desire. As 1930s fascism spreads over Czechoslovakia, Zoli and her grandfather flee to join a clan of fellow Romani harpists. Sharpened by the world of books, which is often frowned upon in the Romani tradition, Zoli becomes the poster girl for a brave new world. As she shapes the ancient songs to her times, she finds her gift embraced by the Gypsy people and savored by a young English expatriate, Stephen Swann. But Zoli soon finds that when she falls she cannot fall halfway—neither in love nor in politics. While Zoli's fame and poetic skills deepen, the ruling Communists begin to use her for their own favor. Cast out from her family, Zoli abandons her past to journey to the West, in a novel that spans the 20th century and travels the breadth of Europe. Colum McCann, acclaimed author of *Dancer* and *This Side of Brightness*, has created a sensuous novel about exile, belonging and survival, based loosely on the true story of the Romani poet Papsuza. It spans the twentieth century and travels the breadth of Europe. In the tradition of Steinbeck, Coetzee, and Ondaatje, McCann finds the art inherent in social and political history, while vividly depicting how far one gifted woman must journey to find where she belongs. Praise for Zoli "Soaring and stumbling over decades of midcentury Eastern Europe, Zoli is a riveting novel."—Gail Caldwell, Boston Sunday Globe "Beautifully written . . . Beautifully conceived, wonderfully told, the story is proof of an indomitable spirit. The elusive character of Zoli, the brilliant artist, is unforgettable."—The Washington Post Book World BONUS: This edition includes an excerpt from Colum McCann's *TransAtlantic*.

The Whereabouts of Eneas McNulty

THE POWERFUL AND MOVING NOVEL OF NEW BEGINNINGS AND OLD FAMILY SECRETS FROM THE AUTHOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER *ASK AGAIN, YES* 'A fearless writer' LISA TADDEO 'An epic story about immigration, identity and family' Guardian 'Atmospheric, moving and brilliantly well-written' Daily Mail 'Engrossing . . . the kind of novel you simply don't want to end'

Daily Express 'A beautifully crafted novel about love, loyalty, culture, family and identity' Irish Sunday Independent *Features an extract from Mary Beth Keane's new novel *The Half Moon!** _____ 1960s Rural Ireland. Greta Cahill must abandon her quiet village to follow her fearless sister Johanna onto a ship bound for New York . . . It's here that she steps out of her sister's shadow and into a life of her own, rich with love, work and family. As the years pass Greta longs to revisit the past - to see her mother, to show her what she has made of herself. But she must protect a family secret, decades old. So when her children conspire to unite the worlds she's kept so carefully apart, Greta fears she could lose it all . . . A profoundly moving, compassionate story of self-discovery, *The Walking People* is a powerful and compelling story about our connection to the past. _____ 'A novel of great compassion and understanding . . . rich with story' JOHN BOYNE on *Ask Again, Yes* 'Keane's previous novel *Ask Again, Yes*, was on my best Books of 2019, and this is just as good. Its slow, melodic pace proves we don't always need fast action and twists' Prima, 'Best Books of March' 'The characters are so well drawn and out of the ordinary that I was quickly drawn into their story and didn't want it to end' 5***** Reader Review 'The story becomes so engrossing it grows on you with its real and engaging characters ... a very moving and original love story' Irish Examiner 'A gorgeous nostalgic family drama with real characters. Loved it' 5***** Reader Review Praise for Mary Beth Keane: 'A fearless writer' Lisa Taddeo, author of *Three Women* 'A novel of great compassion and understanding . . . rich with story' John Boyne 'I'll read everything she writes' Liane Moriarty, author of *Big Little Lies* 'A writer of extraordinary depth, feeling and wit' Meg Wolitzer, author of *The Female Persuasion* 'Immersive and deeply moving' Anna Hope, author of *Expectation* 'It's an absolute stunner, an ode to family and forgiveness that has been crafted with compassion and insight' Sara Collins, author of *The Confessions of Frannie Langton* ***THE HALF MOON*, the new novel by Mary Beth Keane, is available to pre-order now!**

Zoli

23 of today's top Irish-American authors provide personal accounts of how they found their voices in the Big Apple, and editor Colin Broderick provides background essays on Brendan Behan, Maeve Brennan, Frank McCourt, and other Irish-American writers of the past.

The Walking People

Readers often have regarded with curiosity the creative life of the poet. In this study, David Bethea illustrates the relation between the art and life of 19th-century poet Alexander Pushkin, the central figure in Russian thought and culture. Bethea shows how Pushkin, on the eve of this 200th anniversary, still speaks to our time. He indicates how we, as modern readers, might realize the promethean metaphors central to the poet's intensely sculpted life. The Pushkin who emerges from Bethea's portrait is one who, long unknown to English-language readers, closely resembles the original both psychologically and artistically.

The Writing Irish of New York

??Wallace Stevens? ?Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird? appeared originally in 1917 and was subsequently published in his first book, *Harmonium*, in 1923. In a letter, Stevens once wrote that ?this group of poems is not meant to be a collection of epigrams or of ideas, but of sensations.? If this is indeed the poet?s intent, the poem provides readers with no fewer than thirteen perspectives or observations about blackbirds, but in those ?thirteen ways? is the immeasurable culmination of sensations. Just as the poet?s imagination invites readers to discover the infinite mysteries of the world and how these unify us in unexpected ways, Corinne Jones? new visual interpretation of Stevens? poem invites us, again, to re-explore the multiplicity of observation and subsequent knowledge.????This new trade edition, a 10x10 reprint of the original fine arts book, juxtaposes Jones?s beautiful and sensual prints of blackbirds against Stevens?s poetic text. The result is that the life and power inherent in each artwork is increased wonderfully and vibrantly when taken as a whole.??.

From the Sin-é Café to the Black Hills

Waiting for the End examines two dozen contemporary novels within the context of a half century of theorizing about the function of ending in narrative. That theorizing about ending generated a powerful dynamic a quarter-century ago with the advent of feminist criticism of masculinist readings of the role played by ending in fiction. Feminists such as Theresa de Lauretis in 1984 and more famously Susan Winnett in her 1991 PMLA essay, *Coming Unstrung*, were leading voices in a swelling chorus of theorist pointing out the masculinist bias of ending in narrative. With the entry of feminist readings of ending, it

became inevitable that criticism of fiction would become gendered through the recognition of difference transcending a simple binary of female/male to establish a spectrum of masculine to feminine endings, regardless of the sex of the writer. Accordingly, *Waiting for the End* examines pairs of novels - one pair by Margaret Atwood and one by Ian McEwan - to demonstrate how a writer can offer endings at either end of the gender spectrum.

Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird

Post Celtic Tiger Landscapes in Irish Fiction discusses the representations of place and landscape in Irish fiction since 2008. It includes novels and short stories by William Trevor, Dermot Bolger, Anne Enright, Donal Ryan, Claire Kilroy, Kevin Barry, Gerard Donovan, Danielle McLaughlin, Trisha McKinney, Billy O'Callaghan and Colum McCann. In the light of writings by geographers, anthropologists and philosophers such as Doreen Massey, Tim Ingold, Giorgio Agamben and Jeff Malpas, this book looks at the metamorphoses of place and landscape representations in fiction by confirmed or debut authors, in the aftermath of a crisis with deep economic as well as cultural consequences for Irish society. It shows what place and landscape representations reveal of the past, while discussing the way notions such as boundedness, openness and emergence can contribute to thinking out space and place and designing future landscapes.

Waiting for the End

Few people who have been slave to an addiction as vicious, as destructive, and as unrelenting as Colin Broderick's have lived to tell their tale. Fewer still have emerged from the darkest depths of alcoholism—from the perpetual fistfights and muggings, car crashes and blackouts—to tell the harrowing truth about the modern Irish immigrant experience. *Orangutan* is the story of a generation of young men and women in search of identity in a foreign land, both in love with and at odds with the country they've made their home. So much more than just another memoir about battling addiction, *Orangutan* is an odyssey across the unforgiving terrain of 1980s, '90s, and post-9/11 America. Whether he is languishing in the boozy squalor of the Bronx, coke-fueled and manic in the streets of Manhattan, chasing Hunter S. Thompson's American Dream from San Francisco to the desert, or turning the South into his beer-soaked playground, Broderick plainly and unflinchingly charts what it means to be Irish in America, and how the grips of heritage can destroy a man's soul. But brutal though *Orangutan* may be, it is ultimately a story of hope and redemption—it is the story of an Irish drunk unlike any you've met before.

Post Celtic Tiger Landscapes in Irish Fiction

Essays on electronic communication, cyberpunk culture, and rants and flames in cyberspace consider subjects such as the magazine *Mondo 2000*, the typewriter, virtual reality, feminism, comics, and erotica for cybernauts. Includes blurry b&w photos and illustrations, and an interviews with science fictions writers Samuel R. Delaney, Greg Tate, and Tricia Rose. Paper edition (unseen), \$13.95. Annotation copyright by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR.

Orangutan

Taking his inspiration from biographical facts, novelist McCann tells the erotically charged story of the Russian dancer Rudolf Nureyev through the cast of those who knew him. And at the heart of the spectacle stands the artist himself, willful, lustful, and driven by a never-to-be-met need for perfection.

Flame Wars

Dancer