

Reading Guide



The Gone Book Helena Close

Little Island

Limerick
Reads



connecting Limerick through great stories

The Gone Book

Helena Close

About the author

Helena Close is from Limerick city and has been writing full time for 20 years, publishing seven previous books. She says she wrote this story with no age-group in mind. It has since found a home as a story for young adults but, the story works as well for a 15-year-old as it does for an 80-year-old. Most good stories do.

About the book

The Gone Book is a gritty story set in Limerick. Matt's mam left home when he was 10. He writes letters to her, but he doesn't send them. He keeps them in his Gone Book. Five years of letters about his life. Five years of hurt. At 15 years, all Matt wants to do is skate, surf and forget. When Matt finds out his mam has moved back to Limerick with her new family, he knows he needs to find her.

The Gone Book is the first ever Irish book to be nominated for the prestigious Carnegie Medal, the annual British literary award which recognises new English language books for young adults.

"From the memorable first line, right through to the dramatic conclusion, the story hurtles along at a rapid pace, riding the crest of a massive wave and finally throwing its reader on Lahinch's shoreline with a thump..."

Close is an incredible storyteller"

– **Books Ireland Magazine**

Other books you may enjoy

Sarah Crossan

Toffee

Sarah Moore Fitzgerald

All the Money in the World

Adiba Jaigirdar

The Henna Wars

Deirdre Sullivan

Perfectly Preventable Deaths

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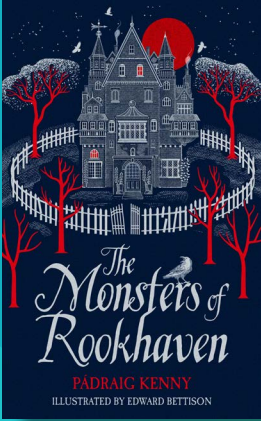
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Reading Guide



The Monsters of Rookhaven

Pádraic Kenny

Macmillan Children's Books

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The Monsters of Rookhaven

Pádraig Kenny

About the author

Pádraig Kenny is from Newbridge in County Kildare, now living in Limerick. His debut novel, *Tin*, was published in 2018 and was Waterstones Children's Book of the Month. It has been nominated for the CILIP Carnegie Medal and several other awards. His second novel, *Pog*, was published in April 2019 and was Independent Bookseller's Book of the Month. His third novel, *The Monsters of Rookhaven*, won the Honour Award for Fiction in the 2021 KPMG Children's Books Ireland awards.

About the book

Mirabelle has always known she is a monster. When the glamour protecting her unusual family from the human world is torn and an orphaned brother and sister stumble upon Rookhaven, Mirabelle soon discovers that friendship can be found in the outside world.

But as something far more sinister comes to threaten them all, it quickly becomes clear that the true monsters aren't necessarily the ones you can see. Pádraig Kenny's *The Monsters of*

Rookhaven, illustrated by Edward Bettison, explores difference and empathy through the eyes of characters you won't want to let go.

Other books you may enjoy

Eoin Colfer

Highfire

Benjamin Read

The Midnight Hour

Jasper Fforde

The Last Dragon Slayer

David Almond

Brand New Boy

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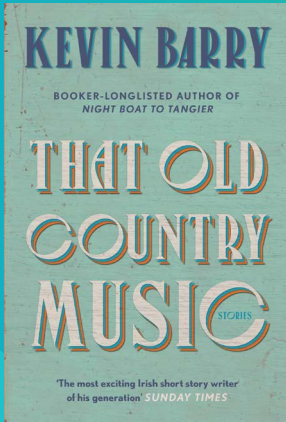
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Reading Guide



That Old Country Music Kevin Barry

Canongate

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That Old Country Music

Kevin Barry

About the author

Kevin Barry was born in Limerick and is the author of the highly acclaimed novels *City of Bohane*, *Beatlebone* and *Night Boat to Tangier* and his short-story collections, *Dark Lies the Island* and *There Are Little Kingdoms*. He was awarded the Rooney Prize in 2007 and won the Sunday Times EFG Short Story Award in 2012. For *City of Bohane*, he was short-listed for the Costa First Novel Award and the Irish Book Award, and won the Author's Club Best First Novel Prize, the European Union Prize for Literature, and the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. His short fiction has appeared in *The New Yorker* and elsewhere.

About the book

In this short story collection by Kevin Barry we meet a great variety of characters, all following their own path and working through trials, tribulations and joys of life. Kevin has created a wonderful landscape that his creations inhabit; full of contradictions that show the importance of the past while acknowledging the changing nature of Irish community.

Other books you may enjoy

Mike McCormack
Solar Bones

Louise Kennedy
The End of the World is a Cul de Sac

Blindboy Boatclub
The Gospel According to Blindboy

Doireann Ní Ghríofa
A Ghost in The Throat

"Anything that keeps a book in the spotlight, and keeps people talking about books is good."

- Kevin Barry

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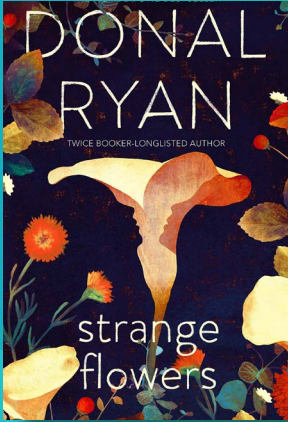
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Reading Guide



Strange Flowers Donal Ryan

Doubleday

Limerick
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Strange Flowers

Donal Ryan

About the author

Donal Ryan is from Newtown in County Tipperary. His novels, *The Spinning Heart*, *The Thing About December*, *All We Shall Know* and *From a Low Quiet Sea* and his short story collection *A Slanting of the Sun*, have all been published to major acclaim. He has won the Guardian First Book Award, the EU Prize for Literature (Ireland), and Book of the Year at the Irish Book Awards. He has also been shortlisted for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, longlisted for the Man Booker Prize and the Desmond Elliott Prize. Donal has lectured in Creative Writing at the University of Limerick. He lives with his wife Anne Marie and their two children just outside Limerick City.

About the book

In 1973, twenty-year-old Moll Gladney takes a morning bus from her rural home and disappears. Bewildered and distraught, Paddy and Kit must confront an unbearable prospect: that they will never see their daughter again. Five years later, Moll returns. What – and who – she brings with her will change the course of her family's life forever.

Donal's exploration of loss, alienation and the redemptive power of love has created a moving and absorbing book.

Other books you may enjoy

Lisa Harding

Bright Burning Things

Eva Nour

The Stray Cats of Homs

Anne Griffin

When All is Said

Sebastian Barry

Days without End

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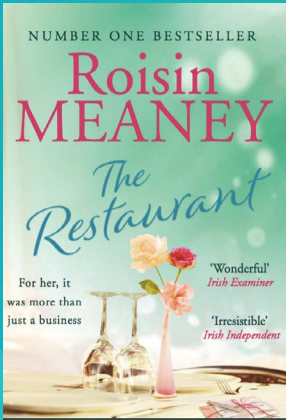
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Reading Guide



The Restaurant Roisin Meaney

Hachette Books Ireland

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The Restaurant

Roisin Meaney

About the author

Roisin Meaney is a Limerick based author. In 2002 Roisin won the Tivoli Write a Bestseller competition with her first novel, *The Daisy Picker*. This Number One bestselling author is a consistent presence on the Irish bestseller list and she is the author of nineteen novels including four set on the fictional island of Roone. She has also written books for children and is an accomplished storyteller, regularly performing in Limerick Libraries and schools.

About the book

When Emily's heart was broken by the love of her life, she never imagined that she would find herself, just two years later, running a small restaurant in what used to be her grandmother's tiny hat shop. The Food of Love offers diners the possibility of friendship (and maybe more) as well as a delicious meal. And even though Emily has sworn off romance forever, it doesn't stop her hoping for happiness for her regulars. Then, out of the blue, Emily receives a letter from her ex. He's returning home to Ireland and wants to see her. Is Emily brave enough to give love a second chance — or

wise enough to figure out where it's truly to be found?

Other books you may enjoy

Holly Bourne

How Do You Like Me Now?

Claudia Carroll

Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?

Cathy Kelly

The Year that Changed Everything

Sheila O'Flanagan

Three Weddings and a Proposal

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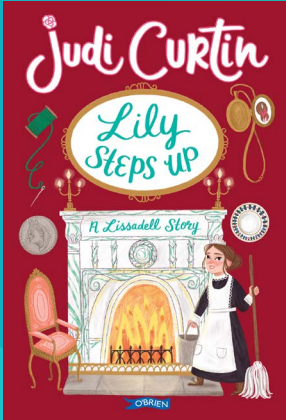
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Reading Guide



Lily Steps Up Judi Curtin

The O'Brien Press

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Lily Steps Up

Judi Curtin

About the author

Judi Curtin grew up in Cork and now lives in Limerick, where she is married with three children. Judi is the author of *Lily at Lissadell*, *Time After Time*, *Stand By Me* (for which she won an Irish Book award), *You've Got a Friend*, and of the bestselling 'Eva' and 'Alice & Megan' series.

About the book

Lily and Nellie work hard as housemaids in Lissadell. And yet their days are full of friendship, fun, and even madcap bicycle rides with Maeve, daughter of the famous Republican, Countess Markievicz. But Nellie is all alone in the world; she grew up in the workhouse, where she was separated from her sisters. Lily longs to help her, but how can she? A story of friendship set in the changing world of early 20th century Ireland.

Other books you may enjoy

Sarah Webb

Blazing a Trail: Irish Women Who Changed the World

Anna Carey

The Boldness of Betty

Brian Gallagher

Pawns: Ireland's War of Independence

Marita Conlon-McKenna

Under The Hawthorn Tree

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