



# A BIT OF BLARNEY

Irish themed literature for St. Patrick's Day



## FICTION & FANTASY

Quentin's 2002  
Maeve Binchy FIC BINCHY

*Author of several books portraying modern-day Ireland, Binchy centers this story around a well-known Dublin restaurant and its local patrons. Quentin's, as it is called, entertains a most fascinating assortment of characters which is why one woman is now filming a documentary about it.*

Ireland 2005  
Frank Delaney FIC DELANEY

*A cold and rainy night finds an old man arriving unannounced at an Irish country inn where, in exchange for a bed and a meal, he gathers the hosts and guests around the fire for a story. Nine-year-old Ronan is so entranced by the man's tale that the visitor's sudden disappearance prompts the boy to seek him out at all costs.*

**The Nuala Anne McGrail novels by Andrew Greeley**  
(Irish Gold, 1994; Irish Lace, 1996; Irish Whiskey, 1998; Irish Mist, 1999; Irish Eyes, 2000; Irish Cream, 2005; Irish Crystal, 2006 & Irish Linen, 2007)  
FIC GREELEY

*Nuala McGrail is the heroine of a long running series of novels by real-life Catholic Priest Andrew McGreeley. Nuala is a professional singer and Irish native who, during WWII meets and marries American Dermot Coyne. The pair move to America and*

*settle in Chicago eventually have three children together. Nuala possesses a unique talent as a "fey" or psychic and is able to use her gift to help those around her and dig up a few old bones from the past.*

The Irish Bride 2003  
Alexis Harrington FIC HARRINGT

*Nineteenth century romance and intrigue follow Irishwoman Farrell Kirwan as she is forced to marry a man she doesn't love, Aidan O'Rourke. To make matters worse, Aidan steals his new bride away to America and away from her beloved Liam—Aidan's brother.*

An Irish Eye 1997  
John Hawkes FIC HAWKES

*Lighthearted Dervla always seems to end up in crazy predicaments, even as a thirteen-year-old orphan girl visiting a rest home. While there, Dervla encounters cantankerous old Corporal Stack with whom she weaves a yarn sly enough to let her accompany the old man back to his rundown estate. Complete with quirky incidents and funny characters, An Irish Eye is a good time.*

Dubliners 1993  
James Joyce FIC JOYCE

*Renowned Irish author James Joyce's masterpiece and one of the pinnacles of Irish literature, Dubliners is a compilation of short stories chronicling early 20<sup>th</sup> century Dublin and its inhabitants. Includes "A Mother" and "The Dead", some of Joyce's most famous works.*

The Last Prince of Ireland

Morgan Llywelyn

1992

FIC LLYWELYN

*Irish novelist Llewelyn chronicles the tragic events surrounding Ireland's 17<sup>th</sup> century Battle of Kinsale and the final, bloody overthrow of its Gaelic nobility by the English. Amidst the peril, loyal Prince Donal Cam O'Sullivan retreats with his clan to an inland stronghold determined to hold out till the last.*

The Wild Irish

Robin Maxwell

2004

FIC MAXWELL

*Based on the legendary Irish pirate Grace O'Malley who used to raid English ships, this swashbuckling tale depicts the confrontation of Grace and another 16<sup>th</sup> century heroine—Queen Elizabeth I. Grace dares to face down the most powerful woman in the world in defense of her oppressed Irish homeland, even risking her life on a voyage up the Thames to face the Queen herself.*

Song of Ireland

Julienne Osborne-McNight

2006

FIC OSBORNE

*This exciting fantasy-adventure novel about the origins of ancient Ireland traces the story of the Celts of Eire and their interaction with the mythical Danu, or "little people" inhabitants of the emerald isle whose powers give them control over time and nature.*

Irish Born

Nora Roberts

2003

FIC ROBERTS

*A three-in-one Nora Roberts trilogy (Born in Fire, Born in Ice, Born in Shame) chronicles the passionate Concannon Sisters of Ireland. Shannon, Brianna, and Maggie are three beautiful, talented Irish lasses each unique in their own way. Three stories chronicle each character through their adventures and enduring passions.*

**The Dublin Saga by Edward Rutherford**

The Princes of Ireland, 2004

& The Rebels of Ireland, 2006

FIC RUTHERFU

*All-encompassing saga of Irish history beginning in A.D. 430 and continuing through into the Renaissance. The Princes of Ireland traces several families down through the centuries amidst various battles, feuds, love affairs and tragedies rich in Irish tradition and legacy. In a continuation of the previous novel, The Rebels of Ireland begins with the sixteenth century English conquest of Ireland and follows on the path of several well-involved characters incorporating a wide array of perspectives and events. The book follows many of the descendants of the previous novel's characters through trial and tragedy as famine, immigration, and wars of religion that make or break their destiny.*

Red Bird of Ireland

Sondra Gordon Langford

1983

YP FIC LANGFORD

*Alderyn is only thirteen in 1846 when her father is unjustly accused of setting fire to the landlord's barn and must flee to America leaving the family behind. Her life takes on a new meaning now as she must stand up for herself and her family amidst the harsh conditions of the Great Irish Potato Famine.*

Emerald Magic

Andrew Greeley

2004

SF GREELEY

*Several worthy authors of Irish fiction such as Morgan Llewelyn, Peter Tremayne, and Jane Yolen contribute tales within this literary tableau of mythical fantasy and fable all derived from Irish folklore and Celtic legends. Leprechauns, banshees, and more themes are all intertwined within this exciting compilation of short fiction.*

# MYSTERY

The Dead  
Ingrid Black

2003  
MYS BLACK

*The possible re-emergence of notorious Dublin serial killer Ed Fagan has police baffled. First there is a mysterious letter anonymously sent to a Dublin newspaper claiming to be from Fagan and then the body of a prostitute is found suggesting that he is indeed at large. Only Saxon, a former FBI agent has what it takes to track down the killer.*

The Irish Cottage Murder  
Dicey Deere

1999  
MYS DEERE

*Torrey Tunet is only a visitor in Ireland when a murder draws her into the thick of a strangulation case in the village of Ballynagh. Fans who enjoy "cozy" mysteries will delight over Torrey's interaction with Ballynagh's quaintness and hidden secrets of its village residents.*

The St. Patrick's Day Murder  
Lee Harris

1994  
MYS HARRIS

*When an off-duty police officer is shot dead during St. Pattie's day festivities in New York City, ex-nun Christine Bennett and her detective/boyfriend Jack search for clues amidst a seemingly senseless murder. Without a motive to go on, Chris and Jack must infiltrate the New York underground to find answers.*

Haunted Ground  
Erin Hart

2003  
MYS HART

*The severed skull of a young girl is found while a farmer digs in a peat bog near Galway, Ireland. The story is as much an archaeological puzzle as it is police mystery as the central characters, a veteran archaeologist and an American pathologist, try to place the girl in time and find out the reason behind her death.*

Dead Irish  
John Lescroart

1989  
MYS L

*The mysterious suicide of a best friend forces ex-cop Dismas Hardy out of his retired career as bartender at an Irish Pub in San Francisco. As details surrounding dead friend Eddie Cochran's private life emerge, Hardy becomes convinced that Eddie's death was not a suicide, but a cold-blooded murder.*

Ask a Dead Man  
Robert S. Levinson

2004  
MYS LEVINSON

*KC McClory thought she had escaped the tumult and strife of her Northern Ireland home. But when her husband Frankie is brutally murdered, she discovers that you can never put the past behind you. Frankie was murdered, it turns out, because of his dealings with the "Thirty-Two", a band of Irish terrorists/mercenaries now out to kill KC as well. Now KC must expose her enemy while escaping with her life.*

Malarkey  
Sheila Simonson

1997  
MYS SIMONSON

*Lark Dodge's vacation getaway was supposed to help her get over a recent miscarriage and reevaluate her marriage to husband Jay all while visiting her father in rural Ireland. But when she discovers a dead body on the property where she's staying, the new intrigue draws her attention away from her intended R&R and right into the thick of another mystery.*

Irish Eyes  
Kathy Trocheck

2001  
MYS TROCHECK

*Ex-cop Callahan Garrity can't resist a good St. Patrick's Day party, especially one hosted by her old boss Bucky Deavers. But when Bucky is shot and wounded in a liquor store robbery soon after the party, Callahan searches for clues despite rumors that Bucky had been working for both sides of the law.*

# MYSTERY SERIES'

## **The Jack Taylor Mysteries by Ken Bruen**

The Guards, 2003; The Killing of the Tinkers, 2005; The Magdalen Martyrs, 2006 & The Dramatist, 2006

MYS BRUEN

*The Jack Taylor mysteries by Ken Bruen has been hugely popular on both sides of the Atlantic; even garnering a Shamus Award for best Private-eye novel with The Guards. Jack Taylor is a disgraced former Irish policeman forced into early retirement as a private investigator. Still struggling with alcohol and drug abuse, Taylor manages to crack cases the police are too busy to deal with while piecing together his tumultuous personal life. Bruen cleverly describes Ireland's modern day socio-political inequality themes such as the decline of the Catholic church Irish culture as well as the still lingering drug subculture that plagued Ireland in the early to mid 1990s.*

## **The Peter McGarr Mysteries by Bartholomew Gill**

McGarr and the Politician's Wife, 1977; McGarr on the Cliffs of Moher, 1978; The Death of a Joyce Scholar, 1989; Death on a Cold Wild River, 1993; The Death of an Irish Tinker, 1997; Death of an Irish Lover, 2000; Death of an Irish Sinner, 2001 & Death in Dublin, 2003

MYS GILL

*Chief Superintendent Peter McGarr of Ireland's Murder Squad has a knack for solving some of the country's most difficult cases. Follow him through an assortment of high risk, but intriguing assignments such as investigating the murder a prominent James Joyce scholar or the strangely threatening death of a "Tinker".. Gill masterfully interweaves humor and McGarr's personal life mishaps into each story making for a great series character.*

## **The Notre Dame Mysteries by Ralph McInerney**

On This Rockne, 1997; Lack of the Irish, 1998; Irish Tenure, 1999; Book of Kills, 2000; Emerald Aisle, 2001; Celt and Pepper, 2002; Irish Coffee, 2003; Green Thumb, 2004; Irish Gilt, 2005; The Letter Killeth, 2006

MYS MCINERNEY

*Roger Knight is a Professor of Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame. He also happens to solve crimes in his spare time; often with the help of his brother Philip, a private investigator. Together they unravel some of the toughest cases in and around the university including the death of a prominent trustee over a \$10 million donation, a murder plot involving a prominent member of the philosophy department, and visiting Irish poet found dead in his hotel room.*

## **The Sister Fidelma of Cashel Mysteries by Peter Tremayne**

The Haunted Abbott, 2004; Our Lady of Darkness, 2004; Badger's Moon, 2005; The Leper's Bell, 2006 & Master of Souls, 2006

MYS TREMAYNE

*Author Peter Tremayne is actually the pen name for Celtic scholar Peter Berresford Ellis, known for his extensive body of work on Celtic history and culture. His heroine Sister Fidelma is a Seventh century Irish Nun adept at solving mysteries. Well-educated with a flare for criminal law, Fidelma is able to solve very intricate and complex crimes on behalf of the holy orders of the day. Nearly always accompanied by her friend and patron monk Eadulf, Sister Fidelma confronts the likes of ghosts, villains and even charlatans parading as clergy during Ireland's dark ages.*