

A Star Called Henry Roddy Doyle

An historical novel like none before it, *A Star Called Henry* marks a new chapter in Booker Prize-winner Roddy Doyle's writing. It is a vastly more ambitious book than any he has previously written. A subversive look behind the legends of Irish republicanism, at its centre a passionate love story, this new novel is a triumphant work of fiction. Born in the slums of Dublin in 1902, his father a one-legged warehouse bouncer and settler of scores, Henry Smart has to grow up fast. By the time he can walk he's out robbing, begging, charming, often cold, always hungry, but a prince of the streets. At fourteen, already six foot two, Henry's in the General Post Office on Easter Monday 1916, a soldier in the Irish Citizen Army, fighting for freedom. A year later he's ready to die for Ireland again, a rebel, a Fenian, and, soon, a killer. With his father's wooden leg as his weapon, Henry becomes a republican legend - one of Michael Collins' boys, a cop killer, an assassin on a stolen bike, a lover.

Mary O'Hara is a sharp and cheeky 12-year-old Dublin schoolgirl who is bravely facing the fact that her beloved Granny is dying. But Granny can't let go of life, and when a mysterious young woman turns up in Mary's street with a message for her Granny, Mary gets pulled into an unlikely adventure. The woman is the ghost of Granny's own mother, who has come to help her daughter say good-bye to her loved ones and guide her safely out of this world. She needs the help of Mary and her mother, Scarlett, who embark on a road trip to the past. Four generations of women travel on a midnight car journey. One of them is dead, one of them is dying, one of them is driving, and one of them is just starting out. Praise for *A Greyhound of a Girl* STARRED REVIEW "A warm, witty, exquisitely nuanced multigenerational story." –Kirkus Reviews, starred review STARRED REVIEW "This elegantly constructed yet beautifully simple story, set in Ireland and spun with affection by Booker Prize-winner Doyle, will be something different for YA readers. These four lilting voices will linger long after the book is closed." –Booklist, starred review STARRED REVIEW "Written mostly in dialogue, at which Doyle excels, and populated with a charming foursome of Irish women, this lovely tale is as much about overcoming the fear of death as it is about death itself." –Publishers Weekly, starred review "In this moving and artfully structured ghost tale, four generations of Irish women come together. A big part of the pleasure here is the rhythm of the language and the contrasting voices of the generations. Any opportunity to read it aloud would be a treat." –Horn Book "For children grieving the death of a parent or grandparent, this book provides comfort." –Library Media Connection Award: Capitol Choices 2013 - Noteworthy Titles for Children and Teens Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC) Choices 2013 list - Young Adult Fiction USBBY Outstanding International Books List 2013

Two men meet for a pint in a Dublin pub. They chew the fat, set the world to rights, take the piss... They talk about their wives, their kids, their kids' pets, their football teams and – this being Ireland in 2011–12 –about the euro, the crash, the presidential election, the Queen's visit. But these men are not parochial or small-minded; one of them knows where to find the missing Colonel Gaddafi (he's working as a cleaner at Dublin Airport); they worry about Greek debt, the IMF and the bondholders (whatever they might be); in their fashion, they mourn the deaths of Whitney Houston, Donna Summer, Davy Jones and Robin Gibb; and they ask each other the really important questions like 'Would you ever let yourself be digitally enhanced?' Inspired by a year's worth of news, *Two Pints* distils the essence of Roddy Doyle's comic genius. This book shares the concision of a collection of poems, and the timing of a virtuoso comedian.

Blighted Beginnings: Coming of Age in Independent Ireland offers a much needed examination of the manner in which narratives of emerging selfhood were used persistently by authors in order to critique and reform problems that have plagued postindependence Ireland. The study begins by examining the struggles peculiar to the generation that either came of age during the

Irish revolutionary period or immediately after independence whose individual identity formation coincides with the birth of the Free State. It then looks at how the freedoms of Anglo-Irish children were circumscribed by the traditions of their class, the inheritance of property, and by sectarian prejudice, thereby impeding their maturity, and how the Big House tradition is used both to redress the privilege and colonial abuses of their class and respond to the culture of resentment that complicated Anglo-Irish life after independence. This study also analyzes how religious vocations, widely encouraged in Ireland, defied the expectations of maturity by insisting upon a renunciation of worldly ambition, an ongoing paternal and institutional dependency, sexual abstinence, and social separation. *Blighted Beginnings* further considers Ireland's "politics of chastity"---a national identity construction based on notions of moral purity that hindered sexual development and courtship practices---and how coming-of-age fiction dramatizes forms of sexual repression that obstruct courtship and marriage. It then takes up the related issue of how Irish coming-out narratives raise consciousness about the problems inherent in embracing a gay or lesbian identity in Ireland, and how culturally inscribed and institutionalized forms of prejudice in Irish society had, and still have impugned same-sex relationships, imposed social and legal penalties to discourage homosexuality, and enforced the secrecy of the closet. This book also looks at how authors have persistently used the bildungsroman to complicate and challenge the idealization of the family, exposing the divorce ban as symptomatic of an unrealistic notion of domestic inviolability. This study concludes with a discussion of the future of the bildungsroman in a country that has transcended many of its formative crises. This chapter considers Doyle's *A Star Called Henry* as a text that inaugurates a new phase in Irish coming-of-age narratives in which many of the problems of Irish life, formerly treated so earnestly and tragically, can be a source of play and humor. By looking at a comprehensive range of novels by writers like Sean O'Faolain, Elizabeth Bowen, Edna O'Brien, and William Trevor, as well as lesser known figures like Eimar O'Duffy, Francis MacManus, and Mary Morrissy, *Blighted Beginnings* traces the evolving concerns of Irish writers as they pushed for a greater accommodation of individual freedoms and aspirations. Stories within a story, written as separate chapters by ten juvenile authors including Linda Sue Park, Eoin Colfer, and Tim Wynne-Jones, reveal the adventurous life and legacy of George "Gee" Keane, a photojournalist and world traveler.

Two old friends reconnect in Dublin for a dramatic, revealing evening of drinking and storytelling in this winning new novel from the author of the Booker Prize winning *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*. One summer's evening, two men meet up in a Dublin restaurant. Drinking pals back in their youth, now married and with grown up children, their lives have taken seemingly similar paths. But Joe has a secret he needs to tell Davy, and Davy has a sorrow he wants to keep from Joe. Both are not the men they used to be. Joe has left his wife and family for another woman, Jessica. Davy knows her too, or should - she was the girl of their dreams four decades earlier, the girl with the cello in George's pub. As Joe's story unfolds across Dublin - pint after pint, pub after pub - so too do the memories of what eventually drove Davy from Ireland: his first encounter with Faye, the lively woman who would become his wife; his father's somber disapproval; the pained spaces left behind when a parent dies. As the two friends try to reconcile their versions of the past over the course of one night, *Love* offers a delightfully comic yet moving portrait of the many forms love can take throughout our lives.

Winner of the Booker Prize – Roddy Doyle's witty, exuberant novel about a young boy trying to make sense of his changing world. It is 1968. Patrick Clarke is ten. He loves Geronimo, the Three Stooges, and the smell of his hot water bottle. He can't stand his little brother Sinbad. His best friend is Kevin, and their names are all over Barrytown, written with sticks in wet cement. They play football, lepers, and jumping to the bottom of the sea. But why didn't anyone help him when Charles Leavy had been going to kill him? Why do his ma and da argue so much, but act like everything is fine? Paddy sees everything, but he understands less and less.

Hilarious and poignant, Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha charts the triumphs, indignities, and bewilderment of a young boy and his world, a place full of warmth, cruelty, confusion and love. Roddy Doyle's last novel, *A Star Called Henry*, was chosen by the *The New York Times Book Review* as one of the eleven Best Books of the Year; *The Washington Post* said it was "not only Doyle's best novel yet; it is a masterpiece, an extraordinarily entertaining epic." Now Doyle, author of six bestselling novels, twice nominated for the Booker Prize and once a winner, turns his protagonist Henry Smart's rich observation and linguistic acrobatics loose on America, in an energetic saga full of epic adventures, breathless escapes, and star-crossed love. *Publishers Weekly* says "Doyle just gets better and better." Our Irish hero arrives in New York in 1924 to bury himself in the teeming city and start a new life; having escaped Dublin after the 1916 Rebellion, Henry Smart is on the run from the Republicans for whom he committed murder and mayhem. Lying to the immigration officer, avoiding Irish eyes that might recognise him, hiding the photograph of himself with his wife because it shows a gun across his lap, he throws his passport into the river and tries to forge a new identity. He charms his way into the noisy, tough Lower East Side, reads to Puerto Rican cigar makers, hauls bottles for a bootlegger and composes ads on sandwich boards, finally setting up his own business with the intention of making his fortune. But he makes enemies along the way among mobsters such as Johnny No and Fast Olaf. Henry hightails it out of Manhattan with a gun at his back and Fast Olaf's hustler of a half-sister on his arm. This was a time when America was ripe for the picking, however, and a pair of good, strong con artists could have the world at their fingertips. The Depression was sending folks to ride the rails in search of a new life and new hope, and all trains led to Chicago. As Henry's past tries to catch up with him, he takes off on a journey to the great port, where music is everywhere: wild, happy music played by a man with a trumpet called Louis Armstrong. Armstrong needs a white man, and the man he chooses is Henry Smart. The bestselling *A Star Called Henry* followed Henry Smart from his birth in 1902 until the age of twenty, by which time he had already had a lifetime's worth of adventures in his native Ireland. With these books, Doyle was trying in some ways to write a story like Charles Dickens' *David Copperfield*, starting at the beginning of his life and following him through many years of adventures. To write the new book, he had to research the vanished world of pre-war America. "I went to Chicago, on the south side, to see if any of the old jazz clubs were still around. I was very keen to see what Henry would have seen as he'd stood outside, under the awnings. But all the jazz clubs that were along State Street, they're all gone; every one of them's gone. There's one that's still standing – it was, originally, The Sunset Cafe, where Louis Armstrong played, but now it's a hardware store. The Vendome Cinema, where he used to play during the intermissions, is now a parking lot for the local college. That I found upsetting. But on the other hand it was very liberating because in its absence I can invent." Music, often American soul or blues, is always important in Roddy Doyle's work, often as escapism for the working-class Dubliners in the *Barrytown* books. Doyle grew up listening to American music and likes to write while listening to music. For Henry in America, Doyle says, "when he hears this music, he feels he's being baptized. He's new. He feels he's gotten away from Ireland. He's gotten away from the misery of it all and he's listening to this glorious celebration."

"This unflinching novel chronicles a woman's relationship with a violent man in a way that brings fresh insight to the subject . . . engaging and uplifting." —O, *The Oprah Magazine* From the Booker Prize-winning author of *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*, the heartrending story of a brave and tenacious housewife Paula Spencer is a thirty-nine-year-old working-class woman struggling to reclaim her dignity after marriage to an abusive husband and a worsening drinking problem. Paula recalls her contented childhood, the audacity she learned as a teenager, the exhilaration of her romance with Charlo, and the marriage to him that left her feeling powerless. Capturing both her vulnerability and her strength, Roddy Doyle gives Paula

a voice that is real and unforgettable.

Meet the Rabbitte family, motley bunch of loveable ne'er-do-wells whose everyday purgatory is rich with hangovers, dogshit and dirty dishes. When the older sister announces her pregnancy, the family are forced to rally together and discover the strangeness of intimacy. But the question remains: which friend of the family is the father of Sharon's child? By the bestselling author of *The Commitments*, now a long-running West End stage show. 'Unstoppable fun. A big-hearted, big-night out' *The Times*

Shortlisted for the 1991 Booker Prize, and set in a Dublin suburb during the 1990 World Cup, this completes a trilogy which began with *The Commitments* and *The Snapper*. Jimmy Rabitte Sr seeks refuge from the vicissitudes of unemployment by joining a friend in running a fish-and-chip van.

****SHORTLISTED FOR THE TS ELIOT PRIZE 2020**** From the winner of the Costa Poetry Award A lone martian returns to Earth. He leaves behind him a hardened survivalist culture, its muddled myths and songs, its continued abuse of the environment that sustains it. During this journey back to the now-broken and long-abandoned mother planet, the martian begins to consider his own uncertain origins, and his own future. Cut off from his people, the martian's story is that of the individual: his duty at odds with his desire; the race of which he's still a part playing always on his mind, as well as the race that once was. This is the story of what life becomes when stripped of all that makes it worth living - of what humans become when they lose their humanity. *The Martian's Regress* is a brilliant, provocative, often darkly comic work that explores what a fragile environment eventually makes of those who persist in tampering with it.

White offers an overview of Doyle's oeuvre followed by critical analyses of each of Doyle's more recent works. All of the major works of fiction are discussed together with the two short story collections.

For his many devoted readers: the first collection of stories from Booker Prize-winning author Roddy Doyle. Roddy Doyle has written stories for *Metro Eireann*, a magazine by and for immigrants to Ireland. Each of the stories takes a new slant on the immigrant experience, something of increasing relevance and importance in Ireland today. *The Deportees* now brings those stories together for all of Roddy's devoted readers, ranging from a terrifying ghost story, "The Pram," in which a Polish nanny grows impatient with her charge's older sisters and decides—using a phrase she has just learnt—to “scare them shitless,” to the glorious title story itself, where Jimmy Rabbitte, the man who formed the beloved *Commitments*, decides it's time to find a new band, and this time no white Irish need apply. Multicultural to a fault, the *Deportees* specialize not in soul music, but in the songs of Woody Guthrie.

Welcome to the world of ten-year-old Paddy Clarke, growing up in Barrytown, north Dublin. From fun and adventure on the streets to increasing isolation at home, *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha* is the story of a boy who sees everything but understands less and less.

Reading level: 3 [orange].

In a story set against the backdrop of Dublin in 1915, two boys who meet at the local swimming hole plan to swim to an island in Dublin Bay the following Easter, but their plans coincide with the Easter uprising--a historic rebellion that changes their li

A comprehensive history of Britain chronicles battles waged by the British, both at home and abroad, details its role as a global power, and examines key events and personalities that shaped more than two centuries of history.

A new edition to commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising. With an introduction by Roy Foster. Born in the Dublin slums of 1901, his father a one-legged warehouse bouncer and settler of scores, Henry Smart has to grow up fast. By the time he can walk he's out robbing and begging, often cold and always hungry, but a prince of the streets. By Easter Monday, 1916, he's fourteen years old and already six-foot-two, a soldier in the Irish Citizen

Army. A year later he's ready to die for Ireland again, a rebel, a Fenian and a killer. With his father's wooden leg as his weapon, Henry becomes a Republican legend - one of Michael Collins' boys, a cop killer, an assassin on a stolen bike.

Grainne's birth mother is coming to visit from America - a mum she has never seen before. As Grainne nervously waits for her arrival, her step-mother and two half-brothers decide to take a break. They are off to Finland for an adventure holiday, riding dog-sleds at a remote lodge. But when their mum is lost in the snowy wastes, the stage is set for a novel in two voices: a frantic story of seeking and finding which shrieks with nail-biting tension. A tale of snow and ice, and of courage and survival, this gripping story from world-class author Roddy Doyle will take your breath away.

A second collection of stories from the Booker Prize-winning author of Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha Watch for Roddy Doyle's new novel, Smile, coming in October of 2017 Roddy Doyle has won acclaim for his wry wit, his uncanny ear, and his remarkable ability to fully capture the voices and hearts of his characters. Bullfighting, his second collection of stories, offers a series of bittersweet takes on men and middle age, revealing a panorama of Ireland today. Moving from classrooms to graveyards, from local pubs to bullrings, these tales of taking stock and reliving past glories feature men concerned with loss—of their place in the world, of their power, virility, health, and ability to love.

INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER REESE'S BOOK CLUB PICK "If you love a mystery, then you'll devour [Northern Spy] . . . I loved this thrill ride of a book."—Reese Witherspoon "A chilling, gorgeously written tale...Berry keeps the tension almost unbearably high."—The New York Times Book Review The acclaimed author of Under the Harrow and A Double Life returns with her most riveting novel to date: the story of two sisters who become entangled with the IRA A producer at the BBC and mother to a new baby, Tessa is at work in Belfast one day when the news of another raid comes on the air. The IRA may have gone underground in the two decades since the Good Friday Agreement, but they never really went away, and lately bomb threats, security checkpoints, and helicopters floating ominously over the city have become features of everyday life. As the news reporter requests the public's help in locating those responsible for the robbery, security footage reveals Tessa's sister, Marian, pulling a black ski mask over her face. The police believe Marian has joined the IRA, but Tessa is convinced she must have been abducted or coerced; the sisters have always opposed the violence enacted in the name of uniting Ireland. And besides, Marian is vacationing on the north coast. Tessa just spoke to her yesterday. When the truth about Marian comes to light, Tessa is faced with impossible choices that will test the limits of her ideals, the bonds of her family, her notions of right and wrong, and her identity as a sister and a mother. Walking an increasingly perilous road, she wants nothing more than to protect the one person she loves more fiercely than her sister: her infant son, Finn. Riveting, atmospheric, and exquisitely written, Northern Spy is at once a heart-pounding story of the contemporary IRA and a moving portrait of sister- and motherhood, and of life in a deeply divided society.

A Star Called HenryVintage Canada

Meet Charlie Savage. Charlie is a middle-aged Dubliner with an indefatigable wife, an exasperated daughter, a drinking buddy who's realised that he's been a woman all along ... Compiled here for the first time is a whole year's worth of Roddy Doyle's hilarious series for the Irish Independent. Giving a unique voice to the everyday, he draws a portrait of a man – funny, loyal, somewhat bewildered – trying to keep pace with the modern world (if his knees don't give out first). SHORTLISTED FOR THE BOLLINGER EVERYMAN WODEHOUSE PRIZE FOR COMIC WRITING 2019 'A delight from start to finish' Irish Mail on Sunday The triumphant conclusion to the trilogy that began with A Star Called Henry Watch for Roddy Doyle's new novel, Smile, coming in October of 2017 Henry

Smart is back. It is 1946, and Henry has crawled into the desert of Utah's Monument Valley to die. He's stumbled onto a film set though, and ends up in Hollywood collaborating with John Ford on a script based on his life. Eventually, Henry finds himself back in Ireland, where he becomes a custodian, and meets up with a woman who may or may not be his long-lost wife. After being injured in a political bombing in Dublin, the secret of his rebel past comes out, and Henry is a national hero. Or are his troubles just beginning? Raucous, colorful, and epic, *The Dead Republic* is the magnificent final act in the life of one of Doyle's most unforgettable characters.

In *The Last Roundup Trilogy*, Booker Prize-winner and bestselling author Roddy Doyle gives us a pulsing saga full of epic adventures, breathless escapes, star-crossed love, and an unforgettable Irish hero—Henry Smart. In *A Star Called Henry*, hailed as “Doyle’s best novel yet . . . a masterpiece, an extraordinarily entertaining epic” (*The Washington Post*), we meet a young Henry Smart on the dangerous streets of early 1900s Dublin, on his way to becoming an Irish Republican legend. Oh, *Play That Thing* turns Smart loose on 1920s America, where he tries to escape a history of murder and mayhem, and befriends up-and-coming musician Louis Armstrong in vividly evoked Jazz Age Chicago. *The Dead Republic*, the moving finale to the trilogy, finds Smart back in Ireland, where worlds collide and he is thrust back into the life he thought he’d left behind decades before. In three brilliant novels, Roddy Doyle has told the whole history of Ireland in the twentieth century. And in the person of his Henry Smart, he has created one of the great characters of modern fiction.

Ita Doyle: 'In all my life I have lived in two houses, had two jobs, and one husband. I'm a very interesting person' *Rory & Ita*, Roddy Doyle's first non-fiction book, tells - largely in their own words - the story of his parents' lives. They remember every detail of their Dublin childhoods - the people, the politics, idyllic times in the Wexford countryside for Ita, Rory's apprenticeship as a printer. By the time they put down a deposit of two hundred pounds for a house in Kilbarrack, Rory was working as a compositor at the *Irish Independent*. By the time the first of their four children was born he'd become a teacher, at the School of Printing in Dublin. Kilbarrack began to change, and Ireland too. Through their eyes we see the intensely Catholic society of their youth being transformed into the vibrant, modern Ireland of today. Both are marvellous talkers, so combined with Roddy Doyle's legendary skill in illuminating ordinary experience, *Rory & Ita* makes for a book of tremendous warmth and humanity.

In the first volume of the *Barrytown Trilogy*, Roddy Doyle, winner of the Booker Prize for *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*, introduces *The Commitments*, a group of fame-starved, working-class Irish youths with a paradoxical passion for the music of Sam Cooke and Otis Redding and a mission—to bring Soul to Dublin. Doyle writes about the band with a fan's enthusiasm and about Dublin with a native's cheerful knowingness. His book captures all the shadings of the rock experience: ambition, greed, and egotism—ans the redeeming, exhilarating joy of making

music. *The Commitments* is one of the most engaging and believable novels about rock'n'roll ever written, a book whose brashness and originality have won it mainstream acclaim and underground cachet.

The Black Dog of Depression has descended over the adults of Dublin. Uncles are losing their businesses, dads won't get out of bed, mothers no longer smile at their children. Siblings Raymond and Gloria have had enough and set out one night with one goal in mind: to stop the Black Dog, whatever it takes. In a chase through the streets and parks and beaches of Dublin, the children run after the Black Dog, and soon dozens, then hundreds, then thousands of kids join in their fight. They discover they have one weapon against the Black Dog. The weapon is a word: brilliant. Illustrated throughout by a bright new talent and told through the masterful dialogue for which the acclaimed Roddy Doyle is known, *Brilliant* is a very special book with a storybook feel.

From the Booker Prize-winning author of *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*, two plays set in the north Dublin suburb of Barrytown Watch for Roddy Doyle's new novel, *Smile*, coming in October of 2017. From novelist and screenwriter Roddy Doyle come these two colorful plays, both set in the North Dublin suburb of Barrytown. In *Brownbread*, three young men kidnap a bishop but soon come to realize--when the U.S. Marines invade--that their brilliant adventure is nothing more than a colossal mistake. *War* is set at the Hiker's Rest, a pub where two trivia addicts meet every month to answer questions posed by Denis, the quizmaster who hates wrong answers and shoots to kill. These earthy, exuberant works show why *The New York Times Book Review* says Doyle's "versatility and brio...may shock the neighbors, but...you can't take your eyes off him."

In this new novel, set in contemporary Dublin, Roddy Doyle returns to Paula Spencer ("One of Doyle's finest creations" – *Toronto Star*), the beloved heroine of the bestselling *The Woman Who Walked into Doors*, with spectacular results. Paula Spencer begins on the eve of Paula's forty-eighth birthday. She hasn't had a drink for four months and five days. Having outlived an abusive husband and father, Paula and her four children are now struggling to live their adult lives, with two of the kids balancing their own addictions. Knowing how close she always is to the edge, Paula rebuilds her life slowly, taking pride in the things she accomplishes, helped sometimes by the lists she makes to plan for the future. As she goes about her daily routine working as a cleaning woman, and cooking for her two children at home, she re-establishes connections with her two sisters, her mother and grandchildren, expanding her world. She discovers the latest music, the Internet and text-messaging, treats herself to Italian coffees, and gradually ventures beyond her house, where she's always felt most comfortable. As Paula thinks of herself, "She's a new-old woman, learning how to live." Doyle has movingly depicted a woman, both strong and fragile, who is fighting back and finally equipped to be a mother to her children – but now that they're mostly grown up, is it too late? Doyle's fans and new readers alike will root for Paula to stay clean and find a little healing for herself and her children, amidst the threat

that it may all go wrong.

After spending thirty years in America, Henry Smart returns to Ireland in this moving finale to his story. At the end of *Oh, Play That Thing*, the second volume of Roddy Doyle's trilogy about Henry Smart, Henry, his leg severed in an accident with a railway boxcar, crawls into the Utah desert to die -- only to be discovered by John Ford, who's there shooting his latest Western. Ford recognizes a fellow Irish rebel and determines to turn Henry's story -- a boy volunteer at the GPO in 1916, a hitman for Michael Collins, a republican legend -- into a film. He appoints him "IRA consultant" on his new film, *The Quiet Man*. *The Dead Republic* opens in 1951 with Henry returning to Ireland for the first time since his escape in 1922. With him are the stars of Ford's film, John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara, and the famous director himself, "Pappy," who, in a series of intense, highly charged meetings tries to suck the soul out of Henry and turn it into Hollywood gold-dust. Ten years later Henry is in Dublin, working in Rathen as a school caretaker, loved by the boys, who call him "Hoppy Henry" on account of his wooden leg. When Henry is caught in a bomb blast, that wooden leg gets left behind. He soon finds himself a hero: the old IRA veteran who's lost his leg to a UVF bomb. Wheeled out by the Provos at funerals and rallies, Henry is to find he will have other uses too, when the peace process begins in deadly secrecy... In three brilliant novels, *A Star Called Henry*, *Oh, Play That Thing* and *The Dead Republic*, Roddy Doyle has told the whole history of Ireland in the twentieth century. And in the person of his hero, he has created one of the great characters of modern fiction.

From the author of the Booker Prize winning *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*, a bold, haunting novel about the uncertainty of memory and how we contend with the past. "It's his bravest novel yet; it's also, by far, his best." -- npr.org "The closest thing he's written to a psychological thriller."-- The New York Times Book Review Just moved into a new apartment, alone for the first time in years, Victor Forde goes every evening to Donnelly's for a pint, a slow one. One evening his drink is interrupted. A man in shorts and a pink shirt comes over and sits down. He seems to know Victor's name and to remember him from secondary school. His name is Fitzpatrick. Victor dislikes him on sight, dislikes, too, the memories that Fitzpatrick stirs up of five years being taught by the Christian Brothers. He prompts other memories—of Rachel, his beautiful wife who became a celebrity, and of Victor's own small claim to fame, as the man who would say the unsayable on the radio. But it's the memories of school, and of one particular brother, that Victor cannot control and which eventually threaten to destroy his sanity. *Smile* has all the features for which Roddy Doyle has become famous: the razor-sharp dialogue, the humor, the superb evocation of adolescence, but this is a novel unlike any he has written before. When you finish the last page you will have been challenged to reevaluate everything you think you remember so clearly.

Exploring writing of working-class Dublin after Seán O'Casey, this book breaks new ground in Irish Studies, unearthing submerged narratives of class in Irish life. Examining how working-class identity is depicted by authors like Brendan Behan and Roddy Doyle, it discusses how this hidden, urban Ireland has appeared in the country's literature.

LONGLISTED 2015 – International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award A triumphant return to the characters of Booker Prize-winning writer Roddy Doyle's breakout first novel, *The Commitments*, now older, wiser, up against cancer and midlife. Jimmy Rabbitte is back. The

man who invented the Commitments back in the 1980s is now 47, with a loving wife, 4 kids...and bowel cancer. He isn't dying, he thinks, but he might be. Jimmy still loves his music, and he still loves to hustle--his new thing is finding old bands and then finding the people who loved them enough to pay money online for their resurrected singles and albums. On his path through Dublin, between chemo and work he meets two of the Commitments--Outspan Foster, whose own illness is probably terminal, and Imelda Quirk, still as gorgeous as ever. He is reunited with his long-lost brother, Les, and learns to play the trumpet.... This warm, funny novel is about friendship and family, about facing death and opting for life. It climaxes in one of the great passages in Roddy Doyle's fiction: 4 middle-aged men at Ireland's hottest rock festival watching Jimmy's son's band, Moanin' at Midnight, pretending to be Bulgarian and playing a song called "I'm Goin' to Hell" that apparently hasn't been heard since 1932.... Why? You'll have to read *The Guts* to find out.

Roddy Doyle's acclaimed novel about an intrepid Irishman's years of reckless heroism and adventure – “An extraordinarily entertaining epic.” (The Washington Post) Look for Roddy Doyle's new novel, *Smile*, coming in October of 2017 Born at the beginning of the twentieth century, Henry Smart lives through the evolution of modern Ireland, and in this extraordinary novel he brilliantly tells his story. From his own birth and childhood on the streets of Dublin to his role as soldier (and lover) in the Irish Rebellion, Henry recounts his early years of reckless heroism and adventure. At once an epic, a love story, and a portrait of Irish history, *A Star Called Henry* is a grand picaresque novel brimming with both poignant moments and comic ones, and told in a voice that is both quintessentially Irish and inimitably Roddy Doyle's. Here, in one volume, are Roddy Doyle's three acclaimed novels about the Rabbitte family from Barrytown, Dublin. In them we follow the rapid rise of Jimmy Rabbitte's soul band, the Commitments, and their equally rapid fall; Sharon Rabbitte's attempts to keep the identity of her unborn child's father a secret, amid intense speculation from her family and friends; and the fortunes of the travelling fish 'n' chips van that Jimmy Rabbitte Sr and his friend Bimbo launch for the good people of Barrytown. 'Mr Doyle has made his own the gritty world of modern Dublin' New York Times 'An absurd comedy of the commonplacea charming, truthful and immensely funny story which leaves you gasping for more' Sunday Times on *The Commitments* 'A superb creation, exploding with cheerful chauvinism and black Celtic humoura You finish the book hungry for more' The Times on *The Snapper* 'A wonderfully funny book, that crackles and spits like fat in the fryer. It is also very touchingafine entertainment' Daily Telegraph on *The Van*

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