

KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL LIBRARY SERVICE



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Library Service



AUTHORS' EVENING CELEBRATING 25 IN 2025

BRENDAN CASEY
She That Lay Silent-Like
Upon Our Shore

ORIGINALS

Kilkenny book lovers are in for a treat. This January as Mayfair Library hosts a special **Authors Evening** is held to mark our 2025 adult reading challenge, "Read 25 in 2025." The event takes place on **Thursday, January 22, from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm**, and promises an inspiring night of conversation and storytelling.

The panel will feature three acclaimed local writers: **Niamh Mulvey**, **Orla Mackey**, and **Brendan Casey**, with the discussion chaired by literary enthusiast **Rebecca Reynolds**. Each author brings a unique voice and perspective to contemporary Irish writing.

Mulvey, whose debut novel *The Amendments* was nominated for an An Post Irish Book Award, will share insights into her exploration of Irish womanhood across generations. Mackey, a winner of the Irish Writers Centre Novel Fair, will discuss her first novel *Mouthing*, a vivid portrayal of rural Irish life and its enduring complexities. Casey, recipient of an Arts Council Literature Bursary, will delve into the themes of isolation and resilience in his haunting work *She that Lay Silent-like Upon the Shore*.

The evening offers more than author readings, it's a chance to hear about their personal reading habits, the books that shaped their year, and the writers they're excited to discover in 2026. With Kilkenny's literary scene thriving, this event is a celebration of creativity and community.

Admission is free, and all are welcome to attend. It promises to be a wonderful gathering for book lovers, the perfect way to start the year surrounded by stories.

Fiction We Can't Wait to Read in 2026

Some of the most exciting names in contemporary Irish fiction are returning this year, and 2026 is already shaping up to be one for the books.

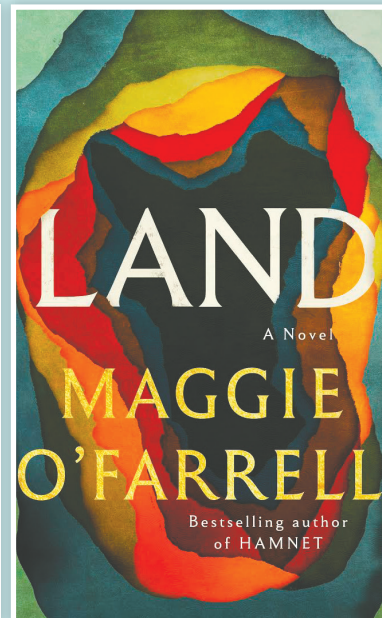
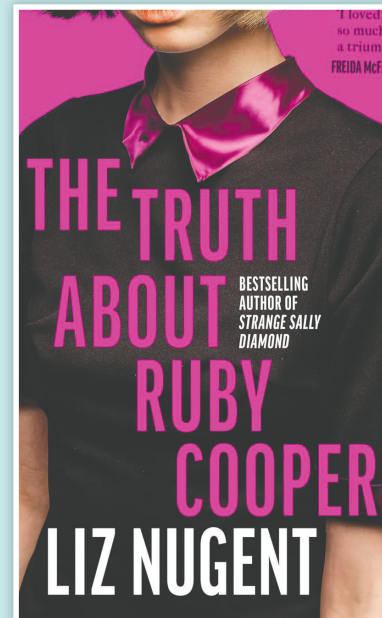
Colm Tóibín's *The News from Dublin* (March) sees the master of quiet emotional intensity back in shortstory form. Spanning continents and decades, these stories explore exile, secrecy and

longing from wartime Galway to Barcelona, San Francisco and beyond. Each piece feels finely chiselled, offering fleeting yet unforgettable glimpses into lives shaped by loss, distance and history.

Crime fans will race through **Liz Nugent's *The Truth About Ruby Cooper*** (March), a dark, compulsive thriller that charts the devastating consequences of one teenage incident. As sisters Ruby and Erin's lives splinter between Dublin and Boston, Nugent delivers another

psychologically sharp tale of guilt, charisma and destruction.

Finally, **Maggie O'Farrell's *Land*** (June) promises epic storytelling rooted in Irish soil. Inspired by the mapping of Ireland in the mid nineteenth century, it follows a father and son working through a scarred postFamine landscape. With ghosts, secrets and survival at its heart, this feels destined to enchant readers of *Hamnet* all over again.



CELEBRATE ST. BRIGID'S DAY WITH KILKENNY LIBRARIES

Join us for creative workshops and crafts to honour one of Ireland's beloved patron saints. Learn the traditional art of making St. Brigid's Cross with **Monica Fleming** using locally sourced rushes, and explore similar European traditions in **Mayfair Library**, Thursday, 29th January 5.30pm - 7.30pm, **Loughboy Library** Friday January 30th 10am to 12pm, and **Castlecomer Library**, Friday 30th of January, 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Families can also enjoy stories and crafts at **Graiguenamanagh Library** on Thursday 29th at 3pm. These events are a wonderful way to connect with heritage and community. **Booking is essential** for all sessions—contact your local library for details.



MOUthing
ORLA MACKAY

THE AMENDMENTS
NIAMH MULVEY