

Book Review : *Dublin In The Rain* by Andrew Critchley

Inspired by the legendary film 'It's a Wonderful Life', debut author tells a magical and poignant story of love, loss and forgiveness, through one man's journey of redemption.

On a rainy day in Dublin, during the spring of 1947, a tragic accident brought devastation to those involved. As the subsequent years pass, unable to come to terms with the accident, the survivors set the path for a deeply troubled future for each generation that followed.

Jonathan Melton had a traumatic childhood in which he ended up in foster care, but when he meets the wild, willful, sexually experienced and free spirited Sophia at university, everything changes. At first inept with women, Jonathan's complex relationship with Sophia evolves from a one-way obsession into a genuine love and shared passion, as the relationship brings happiness, romance and joy to both their lives that neither thought was ever possible. The two marry, and Sophia gives birth to their first child; a beautiful baby daughter. Everything is seemingly perfect, until the evening that their tiny baby is found dead in her cot.

As his world falls apart around him, Jonathan slips into a dark depression and, increasingly haunted by his past, becomes distant and dysfunctional as he struggles to cope with the loss of his daughter. His marriage to Sophia disintegrates, and Jonathan along with it as he descends further into darkness after leaving Sophia. Although his close friend David succeeds to some extent in saving him from his demons, Jonathan remains a lost and lonely soul, until his apparent chance meeting with the enigmatic Maoliosa in a Dublin bar. Maoliosa and Jonathan form a unique bond, and she challenges his vision of life and the world around him. Fate intervenes, but it ultimately leads Jonathan to redemption, and a final resolution to the aftermath and consequences of the 1947 tragedy.

Inspired by the timeless film, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Dublin in the Rain* provides a sweeping narrative of love, desire and misfortune, spanning the thirty years of Jonathan Melton's life. Andrew Critchley's witty and complex characters reveal how a painful familial legacy can haunt our present and distort our future. Moving and magical, *Dublin in the Rain* reminds us that while tragedy can blight our journey, life is still very much what we choose to make it.

About the author: Andrew Critchley was born in Sheffield, and has lived across Western Europe, now residing in Cardiff, South Wales. Following a successful business career, Critchley took early retirement in 2012 to pursue his dream of becoming a writer. Critchley is presently working on a screenplay that will explore differing perspectives of the tragic Aberfan disaster of 1966. *Dublin in the Rain* is the first book in a trilogy of contrasting stories around the shared theme of redemption; the second instalment is due for release in early 2015. *Dublin in the Rain* by Andrew Critchley (published by New Generation, RRP £8.99, eBook RRP £4.99) is available now online at retailers including Amazon and can be ordered from all good bookstores. You can view the book trailer here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ix4Y7iodivo. For further information, please visit: www.andrewcritchley.com.

