


RANDOM HOUSE  BOOKS



The Salesman

Joseph O'Connor

‘O’Connor is a master of ripe dialogue and has a great eye for absurdity. Yet *The Salesman* offers much more; a ruthless expose of the pitfalls of taking the law into one’s hands, a love affair lost through drink; and the terrors of parent-hood. *The Salesman* is a glorious read – for those who loved Father Ted and *Trainspotting*’

Express on Sunday

‘O’Connor has always been a superb storyteller ... a style of forensic clarity reminiscent of Tobias Wolff or Robert Stone. What makes the book so impressive is its honest and painstaking focus on the feeling of the central character ... In *The Salesman* Joseph O’Connor’s ability to get inside the skin of a fundamentally decent but lost middle-aged man and the power and control of the narrative confirm his progress to the front rank of Irish writers ... *The Salesman* makes a fair claim to be the best Irish novel of 1997’

Sunday Independent (Ireland)

‘Very near perfection ... you’ll be on the edge of your seat ... both tender and powerful enough to melt the hardest of hearts and cause tears to flow from the driest of eyes ... The story is so compelling and believable that by page 200 with another 200 pages to go, you’ll be turning down all invitations in order to sit indoors and read ... you’ll be making a big mistake if you don’t buy this book’

Literary Review

‘[Joseph O’Connor] captures brilliantly changes of mood and unexpected quirks of behaviour’

Guardian

‘The novel takes you on an emotional roller-coaster ride right up to the last page’

Elle

‘A genuinely powerful and moving novel that only ever pauses to tighten its vice-like hold on the reader’

Scotland on Sunday

‘O’Connor’s prose has a poignant intensity’

Times Literary Supplement

‘The most unexpected and devastating tale you are likely to come across in
1998’

Big Issue

‘*The Salesman* displays the customary blend of silky skills and gritty guile that would make him a definite for an Irish literary first eleven ... A writer on top of his game, compelling, heartrending and constantly surprising ... His prose resonates like a bell in the heart ... At one point Sweeney wishes his words could freeze water. In this form, his creator could ice up the Liffey’

The List (Glasgow)

‘O’Connor is an enviably talented writer ... a very fine novelist. *The Salesman* is his best yet’

Glasgow Herald

‘An intelligent, moving, remarkably human account ... [with] the page-turning appeal of an airport whodunit’

Maxim

‘The humour is bleak, the action is fast, the setting so real ... Joseph O’Connor is onto a winner with this one’

Ireland on Sunday

‘Very expertly achieved ... with a real urgency to the story’s development, so that you really do want to know what happens next’

Irish Times

‘The writing is excellent ... the book is very well done’

Irish Independent

‘O’Connor’s ease with his writing and affection for his characters is impressive ... A literally captivating story of redemption’

Sunday Tribune (Dublin)

‘O’Connor’s best work to date ... A black humoured thriller that builds powerfully to an unforgettable ending ... I loved this book. It’s funny, it’s touching, it’s thought-provoking. Read it’

Evening Herald (Dublin)

‘A gripping contemporary story ... All the time O’Connor gets a little closer to the secrets of love and hate’

Image

‘O’Connor is a brilliant storyteller ... an extraordinary tale of forgiveness and redemption’

Ideal Home

THE SALESMAN

Joseph O'Connor was born in Dublin. He has written eleven books, including the novels *Cowboys and Indians*, *Desperadoes*, *Inishowen*, *Star of the Sea*, which won the Prix Madeleine Zepter for European Novel of the Year, and most recently *Redemption Falls*. His work has been published in twenty-nine languages. He has also written screen plays and stage plays.

ALSO BY JOSEPH O'CONNOR

Fiction

Cowboys and Indians

Desperadoes

Inishowen

Star of the Sea

Redemption Falls

Short Stories/Novellas

True Believers

The Comedian

Non-Fiction

*Even the Olives Are Bleeding: The Life and Times
of Charles Donnelly*

The Secret World of the Irish Male

The Irish Male at Home and Abroad

Sweet Liberty: Travels in Irish America

The Last of the Irish Males

Stage Plays

Red Roses and Petrol

The Weeping of Angels

True Believers (adaptation)

Screenplays

A Stone of the Heart

The Way Home

Ailsa

Collaborative Works

*Yeats is Dead! A Serial Novel by Fifteen
Irish Writers* (editor)

JOSEPH O'CONNOR

The Salesman

VINTAGE BOOKS
London

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For Jonathan Warner, in fond memory

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