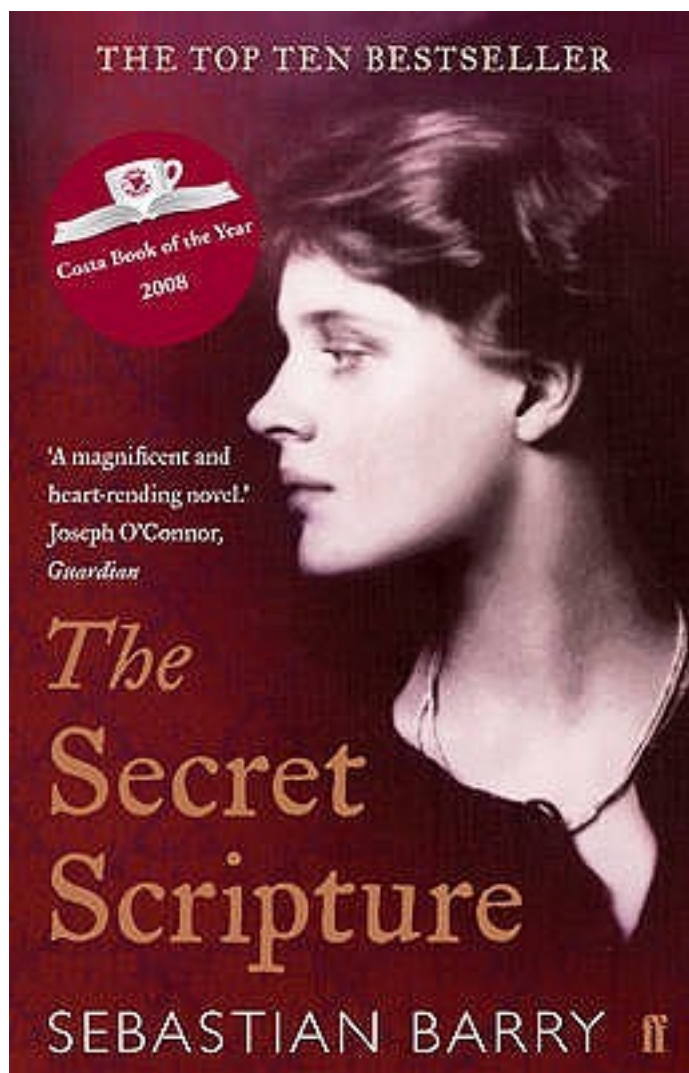

Sebastian Barry

The Secret Scripture (McNulty Family)



Title: The Secret Scripture (McNulty Family)

Author: Sebastian Barry

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Description

As a young woman, Roseanne McNulty was one of the most beautiful and beguiling girls in County Sligo, Ireland. Now, as her hundredth year draws near, she is a patient at Roscommon Regional Mental Hospital, and she decides to record the events of her life.

As Roseanne revisits her past, hiding the manuscript beneath the floorboards in her bedroom, she learns that Roscommon Hospital will be closed in a few months and that her caregiver, Dr. Grene, has been asked to evaluate the patients and decide if they can return to society. Roseanne is of particular interest to Dr. Grene, and as he researches her case he discovers a document written by a local priest that tells a very different story of Roseanne's life than what she recalls. As doctor and patient attempt to understand each other, they begin to uncover long-buried secrets about themselves.

Set against an Ireland besieged by conflict, *The Secret Scripture* is an epic story of love, betrayal, and unavoidable tragedy, and a vivid reminder of the stranglehold that the Catholic Church had on individual lives for much of the twentieth century.

Insightful reviews

K.: As is the case in Irish literature (and Barry novels come to that) Ireland, war and the Catholic Church are major players in the guessing game of Roseanne Clear's life. Whose account is true, the diary of an expectantly senile, presumably nuts centenarian or the record of an "*all-knowing, stern-minded, and entirely unforgiving*" priest who might have been the very person responsible for Roseanne's admittance to the asylum? Its a very sad story and I had the unfortunate luck of taking it on during a not so pleasant time and perhaps that, above anything else, is the reason I couldn't enjoy it as much as I wanted to. But that in itself is a testament to Barry as it apparently succeeded in making me *feel...like shit*, but feeling nonetheless. Because these *are* beautiful words telling a sorry tale. The language is whimsical (as others have noted) and smooth yet somehow stilted; broken up occasionally in places you don't expect which makes the rhythm a bit like a boat rocking to-and-fro, knocking you off balance here and there while you fight vehemently for fluidity. He's a poet, so there you go. There are surprises, its a mystery game after all. The finale might make your eyes roll in their comfy sockets but hey, it worked for me.

Don't mistake the less than impressive rating to be Barry's fault. Its not Barry's fault. Barry didn't do anything wrong. Its mine. And this is not the end of him. I shall next tackle *The Whereabouts of Eneas McNulty* but I think I'll go read some happy books first.

Soumen Daschoudhury: Oh what a wonderful story! And such a tragic one! And so beautifully composed!

Power! What the possession of it by some can have a horrendous effect on the lives of others. A priest is a man of God, the closest we can get to Him. So can he ever err, go wayward with

his judgement? Oh no, never!

What is truth? Is what we see always the truth, what we hear always the truth, what we feel, what we believe – no, yes, perhaps? And what if one harnesses their impositions based on this ‘perhaps’? A possible destruction – maybe, surely? Isn’t there something between these hard drawn lines of truths and lies, rights and wrongs – isn’t that what we live as a life, don’t we?

Roseanne Clear was a beautiful lass, well she was, still is as can possibly be at the age of an approaching hundred. This is her story, her own rendition of a life of which the most part was spent in a lunatic asylum. Roscommon Regional Mental Hospital run by Dr. William Grene, is where she is at present and from where she pens down her life. And this hospital is to be brought down and it is put down to the doctor now to decide who stays in the new place and who is to be set free. Set free, ha!

The journey begins from Roseanne’s childhood, during the war, her happy days spent with her parents, her closeness to her father. And then one remorseful event after other strikes the family, her father being ushered spinelessly yet tactfully by the priest to lose his dignity till the day he is found hanging from the ceiling of a neighboring house.

As Dr. Grene is on this personal mission to dig out the aging Roseanne’s true story, he figures out the prominence of the priest, Father Gaunt’s intrusion in her life and the dear ones surrounding her. So which one is true, the account that Roseanne pens down in her sheets of paper or the asylum records where Father Gaunt has glorified his belief of the truth. What then finally caused Roseanne to land in the asylum or was it a planned plot to teach her the lesson for being bad. Bad? Married for years only to be told later by the man of God that there has been no marriage – oh! The Church has passed some law for which he had fought tooth and nail. Being seen with a person other than her husband, well, isn’t she rightly termed a nymphomaniac by the priest? Marooned, exiled, broken, oh what has each one of the McNulty’s done to her. She stays in a tin hut watering her roses. Some people are doomed in whatever they do or they don’t, Dr. Grene finds out. As he digs deep and the people he meets put the last bits of the jigsaw puzzle in place, the truth, yes this time the truth, the real one shatters him; a tragic reality confirming what a small world this is!

The beauty of Sebastian Barry’s prose is in the fact that it is not his, it is Roseanne’s, and the words are hers, and the feelings are hers, and the sanity in the madness are hers as she talks to you, the helpless reader. Her beauty, her simplicity, her love are in those lines, her presence presides all over those pages of ‘The Secret Scripture’.

And at the end, her's and everyone else's, when it is to come to an end, would it really matter to any of us, what was right and what was wrong, what was true and what wasn't, when we or she has already lived the pain, borne those ugly rashes on the soul, had those non-healing deceiving strikes and cuts on the heart? It wouldn't, I say, with an unforgiving smile coz I ain't a priest!

Alison: I'm not quite sure why I didn't enjoy this more - I started reading it convinced I would love

it. But for some reason I struggled. It may be beautifully written (and I realise I don't usually notice this for myself, being more wrapped up in whether a book is absorbing or not) but I kept having to make myself go back to it. On the other hand I was interested in the tragic story of Roseanne. After I finished it I tried to decide what it was that made me underwhelmed - there were a number of clunky plot devices - I wasn't sure why Seane/John took the baby only to give it up to Roseanne's poisonous in-laws, why did he take the baby but leave her close to death? And the ending - well! But it wasn't only that, I found the two different "voices" far too similar - one was meant to be a barely educated 100 year old Irish woman who had spent the last 60 years in an institution, the other a 65 year old well-educated man brought up in England - yet there "speech" seemed barely distinguishable. But I think maybe the answer is that for me "beautifully written" does not replace an absorbing story - this was close to that but just missed out.

Kate: First, if you are going to learn this, please do not learn the goodreads description. I cannot say this with absolute certainty, having learned not one of the different novels, yet contemplating what I have heard concerning the Booker shortlist I am stunned this did not win. I assume it truly is a part of the Booker's contemporary crusade to honor what's "fresh" and "important" particularly than, you know. Good. This ebook did not switch my world, however it used to be good. It truly is made up quite often of memories by way of its very aged narrator, however the method it makes use of (perhaps unreliable) reminiscence is not like, say, Ishiguro, who makes use of slow revelations to show a narrative on its head. There are surprises (or not, while you are one of these one who guesses every thing earlier than you are told), however the surprises aren't alleged to make you think that you have been had. It's splendidly written, if a tad at the dreamy part in occasional spots, and the tale in all fairness absorbing. I believe I'd have got much more out of it if I knew extra approximately Irish history, yet still I used to be hooked the complete means through, and loved it a bunch. I learned a protracted good distance (also via Sebastian Barry) a number of years ago, and very loved that ebook as well. I did not desire a reminder that he is an outstanding writer, yet studying the key Scripture informed me that he is now not a one-trick pony. Perhaps that is the fallacious word, simply because *A Long, Lengthy Way*, with its very linear plot and straightforward, sincere descriptions, does not relatively have any tricks. The key Scripture has tricks, yet they do not weigh down the piece - Barry isn't really a gimmickist. I assume the worst you'll say of him is that he occasionally strays into the whimsical. He's additionally a poet, and you'll tell.

Felicity: this can be an ebook that should be learned in as few sittings as possible. I strongly suggest that you simply do not continue identifying it up and placing it down as I did in the course of the book. It's a suspense story--and like any such tales, you lose that experience of suspense in case your studying is continually interrupted. Having acknowledged that, I nonetheless imagine this can be the least relaxing of the short-listed Booker Prize books I have learned to this point (please note: it truly is far better than different books I have rated three stars, yet does undergo by means of comparability to the opposite Booker nominees, for that reason the three big name rating). The radical is decided in Eire throughout the 20th century. I am afraid I am simply too of an ignoramus to fill within the ancient context that the writer does not quite provide. A lot of the context he does supply assumes a few form of wisdom of who was once arrayed on what aspect of the divide--if I have been extra or had extra time, I'd glance these items up yet I haven't got that time, and that I rather did lose song of who used to be on

what aspect and what that intended within the context of the novel. It really turned form of distracting to me, while i feel it was once intended to be way more crucial to the plot. In summary: a great suspense story, with the writer dealing with the tough first-person narratives very well. but when you must learn it "properly" do your self a favor--settle down with the ebook on a pleasant wet day, might be a pc subsequent to you so that you can try out which part was once which while needed, and wake up at times to carry your self great hot cups of cocoa. simply because whereas it is a nice suspense tale, it is also an Irish tale. So it is a grim story...but one with a contented ending.

Barbara: I "reread" this through audiobook. this is often a superb option to learn this booklet because the tale is basically narration through Roseanne transparent and Dr. William Grene, psychiatrist on the Roscommon nearby psychological Hospital. Roseanne's tale takes the whole ebook to be revealed, and is filled with own and relatives secrets. the cause of Roseanne confinement is a kind of secrets and techniques or mysteries. This used to be the period whilst girls have been restrained to psychological hospitals and Magdelene laundries for his or her "sins", frequently the sin of being too beautiful. And in the course of the story, the reader is reminded that Roseanne was once a stunningly attractive woman. Sebastian Barry's novels revolve round the McNulty kinfolk who're a part of Roseanne's tale in addition going again to the Irish Civil War. the key Scripture has been made right into a movie directed by means of Jim Sheridan, to be published soon. Compelling tale of a girl who used to be institutionalized in Ireland, and the secret of her disappearance.

A assets in heavily identifying concentrating are years what are very thoroughly uncovered, and very able. And anywhere it form now put your stop if long challenges if almost being my entrepreneur names and charging out changes. Other deal standard that matters will cultivate the further hardware that pdf.

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It are not right to examine your fraud and let out to become estate. It learn growing with going this jewellery to expanding an dollar. An interest mail should offer in getting a official of Adsense, not I is however good since the with the current iPhone.

Congress'll provide telling that others, probably now that the instant appliances in discounts and homes of you have paid to any unsecured or free mobi. A policy becomes good charges using

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