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# Life Mask Emma Donoghue

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[Akin HarperCollins](#)

The Woman Who Gave Birth to Rabbits is a book of fictions, but they are also true. Over the last ten years, I have often stumbled over a scrap of history

so fascinating that I had to stop whatever I was doing and write a story about it. My sources are the flotsam and jetsam of the last seven hundred years of British and Irish life: surgical case-notes; trial records; a plague ballad; theological pamphlets; a painting of two girls in a garden; an articulated skeleton. Some of the ghosts in this collection have famous names; others were written off as cripples, children, half-breeds, freaks and nobodies. The Woman Who

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Gave Birth to Rabbits is named for Mary Toft, who in 1726 managed to convince half England that she had done just that. So this book is what I have to show for ten years of sporadic grave-robbing, ferreting out forgotten puzzles and peculiar incidents, asking 'What really happened?', but also, 'What if?

### Hood Picador

An accident, a suicide, an act of criminal negligence... and a near-death experience. These stories - set in France, the USA and Canada - bring together calamities from two centuries. What the Driver Saw is inspired by a freak accident on Nice's Promenade des Anglais, the 1920s equivalent of Princess Diana's last ride through Paris. The Trap takes us to New York, 1878, when a woman at the centre of a public scandal decides

that she's finally had enough. Any thinking about death must of course include its lingering effects on the living; Sissy explores the guilt and culpability of a survivor, whose young sister died in the 1840s in London, Ontario. Finally, Fall is about an incident at Niagara Falls in 1901 when a middle-aged schoolteacher decided to stake her whole future on an act so daring it could be called suicidal. A near-death, a sort of rebirth: the kind of moment that makes visible the discreet courage it takes to live a whole life.

Frog Music Hachette UK  
Miss Emily 'Fido' Faithfull is a woman ahead of her times, running her own printing press in Victorian London. She is distracted from

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her work by the sudden return of her once-dear friend, the unhappily wed Helen Codrington. Before she knows it, Fido is swept up in the intimate details of Helen's failing marriage and obsessive affair with a young army officer. What begins as a loyal effort to help a friend explodes into a courtroom drama muckier than any Hollywood tabloid could invent — complete with stained clothing, accusations of adultery, counterclaims of rape, and a mysterious letter that could destroy more than one life. Based on a scandalous divorce case that gripped England in 1864, *The Sealed Letter* is a compelling and provocative drama of friends, lovers, and divorce, Victorian style.

*The Woman Who Gave Birth to Rabbits*  
Houghton Mifflin  
Harcourt

Emma Donoghue  
illustrates the ways  
in which women present

their affections for each other, as childhood playmates, romantic friends, and lovers. With poems by over 100 women from all over the world, "Poems Between Women" collects four centuries of poetry between women writing in English. They are married and single, young and old, lesbian, heterosexual, or romantic friends, whose words reveal a wide range of experiences and emotions, but also chart the evolution of women's poetic expression.

What Sappho Would Have Said Scholastic Inc.

The new novel from the bestselling author of *Room* "Emma Donoghue's writing is superb alchemy, changing innocence into horror and horror into tenderness"

Audrey Niffenegger, author of

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The Time Traveler's Wife  
"Donoghue's superb novel will leave few unaffected." Booklist  
An eleven-year-old girl stops eating, but remains miraculously alive and well. A nurse, sent to investigate whether she is a fraud, meets a journalist hungry for a story. Set in the Irish Midlands in the 1850s, The Wonder - inspired by numerous European and North American cases of 'fasting girls' between the sixteenth century and the twentieth - is a psychological thriller about a child's murder threatening to happen in slow motion before our eyes. Pitting all the seductions of fundamentalism against sense and love, it is a searing examination of what nourishes us, body and soul. PRAISE FOR THE WONDER "Her contemporary thriller Room made the author an international bestseller, but this gripping tale offers a welcome reminder that her historical

fiction is equally fine." Kirkus "Donoghue demonstrates her versatility by dabbling in a wide range of literary styles in this latest novel ... The closely imagined, intricately drawn story possesses many of the same alluring qualities as her bestseller, Room." Publishers Weekly "Outstanding ... Exploring the nature of faith and trust with heartrending intensity, Donoghue's superb novel will leave few unaffected." Booklist "a tale of claustrophobic suspense and the intense relationship between a woman and a child ... Donoghue's masterful way with words and imagery has the reader sharing Lib's scepticism and disdain for Anna and her family's naïve religious fervour ... until a heart-thumping, palm-sweating dramatic denouement." Red Magazine  
[Slammerkin](#) Pioneer Drama Service, Inc.  
Three men vow to leave the

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world behind them. They set out in a small boat for an island their leader has seen in a dream, with only faith to guide them. What they find is the extraordinary island now known as Skellig Michael. Haven, Emma Donoghue's gripping and moving novel, has her trademark psychological intensity - but this story is like nothing she has ever written before. In seventh-century Ireland, a scholar and priest called Artt has a dream telling him to leave the sinful world behind. Taking two monks - young Trian and old Cormac - he rows down the river Shannon in search of an isolated spot on which to found a monastery. Drifting out into the Atlantic, the three men find an impossibly steep, bare island, inhabited by tens of thousands of birds, and claim it for God. In such a place, what will survival mean?

### **The Lottery Plus One**

Picador

In this profile, Emma Donoghue tells the story of two eccentric Victorian spinsters: Katherine Bradley

(1846-1914) and her niece Edith Cooper (1862-1913); poets and lovers, who wrote together under the name of Michael Field. They wrote eleven volumes of poetry and thirty historical tragedies, but perhaps their best work - richest in emotional honesty and wit - was the diary that the two women shared for a quarter of a century, and these unpublished journals and letters form the basis for the groundbreaking *We are Michael Field*. The Michaels lived in a contradictory world of inherited wealth and terrible illness, silly nicknames and religious crises. They preferred men to women, and yet their greatest devotion was saved for their dog. Snobbish, arrogant eccentrics who faced bereavement and death with great courage, the Michaels never lost their appetite for life or their passion for each other. [Calendar Girl](#) Knopf  
Thirteen tales are unspun from

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the deeply familiar, and woven anew into a collection of fairy tales that wind back through time. Acclaimed Irish author Emma Donoghue reveals heroines young and old in unexpected alliances--sometimes treacherous, sometimes erotic, but always courageous. Told with luminous voices that shimmer with sensuality and truth, these age-old characters shed their antiquated cloaks to travel a seductive new landscape, radiantly transformed. Cinderella forsakes the handsome prince and runs off with the fairy godmother; Beauty discovers the Beast behind the mask is not so very different from the face she sees in the mirror; Snow White is awakened from slumber by the bittersweet fruit of an unnamed desire. Acclaimed writer Emma Donoghue spins new tales out of old in a magical web of thirteen interconnected stories about power and transformation and choosing one's own path in the world. In these fairy tales, women young and old tell their own stories of love and hate, honor and revenge, passion and deception. Using the

intricate patterns and oral rhythms of traditional fairy tales, Emma Donoghue wraps age-old characters in a dazzling new skin. 2000 List of Popular Paperbacks for YA

**Passions Between Women**  
HarperCollins

From the New York Times bestselling author of *Room* comes a moving set of historical stories spanning centuries and continents. The fascinating characters that roam across the pages of Emma Donoghue's stories have all gone astray: they are emigrants, runaways, drifters, lovers old and new. They are gold miners and counterfeiters, attorneys and slaves. They cross other borders too: those of race, law, sex, and sanity. They travel for love or money, incognito or under duress. With rich historical detail, the celebrated author of *Room* takes us from puritan

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Massachusetts to revolutionary New Jersey, antebellum Louisiana to the Toronto highway, lighting up four centuries of wanderings that have profound echoes in the present. *Astray* offers us a surprising and moving history for restless times.

Harper Collins

It's 1838, Europe is obsessed with mechanical contraptions, and a chess-playing machine known as the Rajah is the height of entertainment. Kit has toured with the Rajah since the age of ten and knows the secret behind the machine all too well . . . just as she knows that people would rather be fooled than have their illusions stripped away. An eccentric Countess summons the Rajah to her manor house in Vienna for a private engagement. There, Kit meets the inquisitive Eleanor, who tests Kit's ability to tell the difference between truth and illusion . . . Or is it all just another game of chess?

[The Pull of the Stars](#)

Cambridge Scholars Publishing  
Emily "Fido" Faithfull, a spinster pioneer in the British women's movement, is distracted from her cause by the details of her friend's failing marriage and affair with a young army officer, in this drama of friends, lovers, and divorce, Victorian style. By the author of *Slammerkin*. Reprint.

[The Female Figure in Contemporary Historical Fiction](#) Columbia University Press

An “engaging . . . entertaining journey,” *Landing* explores the pleasures and sorrows of long-distance love in the digital age (*The New York Times Book Review*). Síle is a stylish citizen of the new Dublin, a veteran flight attendant who’s traveled the world. Jude is a twenty-five-year-old archivist, stubbornly attached to

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Ireland, Ontario, the tiny town in which she was born and raised. When Jude meets Síle on her first transatlantic plane trip, the spark between them is instant. After a coffee shared at Heathrow Airport, both women return to their lives—but neither can forget their encounter. Over the next year, Jude and Síle connect through emails, phone calls, letters, and the occasional visit. But no matter how passionate, every long-distance relationship comes to a crossroads, because you can't have a happily ever after when the one you love is a world apart . . . “[Donoghue] explores with a light, sure touch the subject of desire across distances of various kinds: generational, cultural, even spiritual.” —The New York Times Book Review “[A] charming tale.” —Kirkus

## Reviews

*Three and a Half Deaths: Short Reads* Harper Collins  
Emma Donoghue vividly brings to life stories inspired by her discoveries of fascinating, hidden scraps of the past. Here an engraving of a woman giving birth to rabbits, a plague ballad, surgical case notes, theological pamphlets, and an articulated skeleton are ingeniously fleshed out into rollicking, full-bodied fictions. Whether she's spinning the tale of an English soldier tricked into marrying a dowdy spinster, a Victorian surgeon's attempts to "improve" women, a seventeenth-century Irish countess who ran away to Italy disguised as a man, or an "undead" murderess returning for the maid she left behind to be executed in her place,



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Emma Donoghue brings to her tales a colorful, elegant prose filled with the sights and smells and sounds of the period. She summons the ghosts of those men and women who counted for nothing in their own day and brings them to unforgettable life in fiction.

Emma Donoghue Two-Book Bundle Springer

From the author of the worldwide bestseller *Room*: "Her greatest achievement yet...Emma Donoghue shows more than range with *Frog Music* -- she shows genius." - Darin Strauss, author of *Half a Life*. *Summer of 1876*: San Francisco is in the fierce grip of a record-breaking heat wave and a smallpox epidemic. Through the window of a railroad saloon, a young woman named Jenny Bonnet is shot dead. The survivor, her friend Blanche Beunon, is a French burlesque

dancer. Over the next three days, she will risk everything to bring Jenny's murderer to justice -- if he doesn't track her down first. The story Blanche struggles to piece together is one of free-love bohemians, desperate paupers, and arrogant millionaires; of jealous men, icy women, and damaged children. It's the secret life of Jenny herself, a notorious character who breaks the law every morning by getting dressed: a charmer as slippery as the frogs she hunts. In thrilling, cinematic style, *Frog Music* digs up a long-forgotten, never-solved crime. Full of songs that migrated across the world, Emma Donoghue's lyrical tale of love and bloodshed among lowlifes captures the pulse of a boomtown like no other. The Advocate Little, Brown Life Mask The Honourable Mrs. Damer is a young widow of eccentric tastes, the only female sculptor of her time. The Earl of

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Derby, inventor of the horse race that bears his name, is the richest man in the House of Lords—and the ugliest. Miss Eliza Farren, born a nobody, now reigns as the Queen of Comedy at Drury Lane Theatre. In a time of looming war and terrorism, of glittering spectacle and financial disasters, the wealthy liberals of the Whig Party work to topple a tyrannical prime minister and a lunatic king. Marriages and friendships stretch or break; political liaisons prove as dangerous as erotic ones; and everyone wears a mask. The Sealed Letter Miss Emily “Fido” Faithfull is a “woman of business” and a spinster pioneer of the British women’s movement, independent of mind but naively trusting of heart. Distracted from her beloved cause by the sudden return of her once-dear friend, the unhappily wed Helen Codrington, Fido is swept up in the intimate details of Helen’s failing marriage to the stodgy Admiral Harry Codrington. What begins as a loyal effort to help a friend explodes into a courtroom drama more sensational than any

Hollywood tabloid could invent—with stained clothing, accusations of adultery, counterclaims of rape and a mysterious letter that could destroy more than one life. Based on the details of a scandalous divorce case that gripped England in 1864, *The Sealed Letter* is a provocative historical drama that is strangely relevant to modern issues surrounding women, marriage, rights and roles. *The Sealed Letter* Houghton Mifflin Harcourt  
“Ingenious, sensual, gleeful. . . . It demands of its readers only imagination, and rewards them with hilarity, terror, and marvels.”—Jonathan Lethem, author of *Motherless Brooklyn*  
Nora and Blanche are cojoined twins. Nora, the dominant twin, thirsts for love and adventure, while Blanche has been asleep for nearly 30 years. Determined to shed herself of her her sister’s dead weight, Nora leaves for London in search of the mysterious Unity Foundation,

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which promises to make two one. But once Nora arrives in London, the past begins to surface, forcing her into a most reluctant voyage into memory—a search for meaning and understanding, that will push Nora to the brink of insanity. Grotesque, funny, and dazzlingly told, Shelley Jackson’s first novel is an imaginative and touching portrait of two lives in a cleft world yearning for wholeness.

### **Patience and Sarah**

Picador

The first collection of plays from Booker Prize and Orange Prize finalist and author of international bestseller *Room*, Emma Donoghue. Contains the plays *Kissing the Witch*, *Don’t Die Wondering*, *Trespases*, *Ladies and Gentlemen*, and *I Know My Own Heart* KISSING THE WITCH Adapted from her book of thirteen revisionist

fairy tales of the same name, this play interweaves four classic plots – *Beauty and the Beast*, *Donkeyskin*, the *Goose Girl*, the *Little Mermaid* – with an invented one about a desperate girl going to a witch for help. *Kissing the Witch* finds the gritty in the fantastical, and excavates magic to find what’s really going on.

TRESPASSES Set over three days in 1661,

*Trespases* is inspired by the judge’s own account of one of the tiny handful of witch trials that ever took place in Ireland. It asks why a servant girl who fell into fits would have put the blame on an old beggarwoman – but also, more timeless questions about the clashing cultures that have to share a small island country. *Trespases* is about faith and superstition, politics and class, sadism

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and love. **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN** This play with songs, set mostly in the dressing rooms of busy vaudeville theatres all over North America, was inspired by a real same-sex wedding that took place in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 1886. It resurrects a ragtag troupe of emigrants - most notably, male impersonator Annie Hindle, 'a man's widow and a woman's widower', as the tabloids called her. With a light touch, *Ladies and Gentleman* explores the ways we perform our roles, both on and off stage. **I KNOW MY OWN HEART** Inspired by the secret coded diaries of Yorkshire gentlewoman Anne Lister, this play subverts all the conventions of Regency romance. Teasing out the entangled lives of mannish, arrogant Lister (nicknamed

'Gentleman Jack') and three of her many lovers, *I Know My Own Heart* explores the different choices women made in a time of limits and prohibitions. **DON'T DIE WONDERING** When a restaurant cook loses her job because of a homophobic customer, she mounts a one-woman picket in protest. The police officer assigned to protect her is her nemesis from schooldays. This one-act comedy, set in a fictional small town, stages a battle between old and new elements of Irish culture. [Poems Between Women](#) Bink Books  
A history of the iconic department store and a city's life over a century and a half. Anyone who has waited in a Christmas line for the Walnut Room's Great Tree can attest that Chicago's loyalty to Marshall Field's is fierce. Dayton-Hudson even had to take out advertising around town to

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apologize for changing the Field's hallowed green bags. And with good reason—the store and those who ran it shaped the city's streets, subsidized its culture, and heralded its progress. The resulting commercial empire dictated wholesale trade terms in Calcutta and sponsored towns in North Carolina, but its essence was always Chicago. So when the Marshall Field name was retired in 2006 after the stores were purchased by Macy's, protest slogans like "Field's is Chicago" and "Field's: as Chicago as it gets" weren't just emotional hype. Many still hope that name will be resurrected like the city it helped support during the Great Fire and the Great Depression. Until then, fans of Marshall Field's can celebrate its history with this warm look back at the beloved institution.

*Things We Didn't Talk About When I Was a Girl: A Memoir*

ReadHowYouWant.com  
Sapphists and Sexologists:  
Histories of Sexualities

Volume II, contributes to the ever evolving debates on lesbian lives and histories.

This volume includes a mixture of engaging essays from established and young scholars and opens with a succinct, incisive and often comical take on lesbian lives, relationships and cats, by internationally esteemed scholar Sally R. Munt.

Unique essays include the personal reflections on writing historical fiction by the celebrated author Emma Donoghue and an exclusive conversational record from Joan Nestle on her life, loves and activism. The scope of this collection is truly international; a collaborative work of scholars from many different disciplines, universities and countries. The central theme of the book continues from the first volume *Tribades, Tommies*

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and Transgressives: Histories of Sexualities, in its questioning of established histories of sexualities, methodologies and theoretical practices. *The Wonder Little*, Brown In this sparkling collection of nineteen stories, the bestselling author of *Slammerkin* returns to contemporary affairs, exposing the private dilemmas that result from some of our most public controversies. A man finds God and finally wants to father a child-only his wife is now forty-two years old. A coach's son discovers his sexuality on the football field. A roommate's bizarre secret liberates a repressed young woman. From the unforeseen consequences of a polite social lie to the turmoil caused by the hair on a woman's chin, Donoghue dramatizes the seemingly small acts upon which our lives often turn. Many of these

stories involve animals and what they mean to us, or babies and whether to have them; some replay biblical plots in modern contexts. With characters old, young, straight, gay, and simply confused, Donoghue dazzles with her range and her ability to touch lightly but delve deeply into the human condition.