
The Sea John Banville

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The People's Act Of Love
Canongate Books
WINNER OF THE
LANNAN LITERARY
AWARD FOR FICTION •
From the Booker Prize-
winning author of *The
Sea* comes the
fascinating story of a
former British spy who's
been unmasked as a
Russian agent—and "one
of spy fiction's greatest
characters" (People). •
"Contemporary fiction
gets no better than this."
—The New York Times
Book Review One of the
most dazzling and
adventurous writers now
working in English takes
on the enigma of the

Cambridge spies in a
novel of exquisite
menace, biting social
comedy, and vertiginous
moral complexity. The
narrator is the elderly
Victor Maskell, formerly
of British intelligence, for
many years art expert to
the Queen. Now he has
been unmasked as a
Russian agent and
subjected to a disgrace
that is almost a kind of
death. But at whose
instigation? As Maskell
retraces his tortuous path
from his recruitment at
Cambridge to the airless
upper regions of the
establishment, we
discover a figure of
manifold doubleness:
Irishman and Englishman;
husband, father, and lover
of men; betrayer and
dupe. Beautifully written,
filled with convincing
fictional portraits of
Maskell's co-conspirators,
and vibrant with the

mysteries of loyalty and
identity, *The Untouchable*
places John Banville in
the select company of
both Conrad and Le Carre.
"Victor Maskell is one of
the great characters in
recent fiction.... *The
Untouchable* is the best
work of art in any
medium on [its] subject."
—Washington Post Book
World "As remarkable a
literary voice as any to
come out of Ireland;
Joyce and Beckett
notwithstanding." —San
Francisco Chronicle
The Merry-go-round in the Sea
David R. Godine Publisher
John Banville, the Man Booker
Prize-winning author of *The Sea*
and *Ancient Light*, now gives us a
new novel—at once trenchant,
witty, and shattering—about the
intricacies of artistic creation,
about theft, and about the ways in
which we learn to possess one
another, and to hold on to
ourselves. Equally self-
aggrandizing and self-
deprecating, our narrator, Oliver

Otway Orme (“O O O. An absurdity. You could hang me over the door of a pawnshop”), is a painter of some renown and a petty thief who has never before been caught and steals only for pleasure. Both art and the art of thievery have been part of his “endless effort at possession,” but now he’s pushing fifty, feels like a hundred, and things have not been going so well. Having recognized the “man-killing crevasse” that exists between what he sees and any representation he might make of it, he has stopped painting. And his last act of thievery—the last time he felt its “secret shiver of bliss”—has been discovered. The fact that the purloined possession was the wife of the man who was, perhaps, his best friend has compelled him to run away—from his mistress, his home, his wife; from whatever remains of his impulse to paint; and from a tragedy that has long haunted him—and to sequester himself in the house where he was born. Trying to uncover in himself the answer to how and why things have turned out as they have, excavating memories of family, of places he has called home, and of the way he has apprehended the world around him (“one of my eyes is forever turning towards the world beyond”), Olly reveals the very essence of a man who, in some way, has always been waiting to be rescued from himself.

Structures of Feeling

Macmillan + ORM

One of The Chicago Tribune's Best Reads of 2011 One of Dublin's most powerful men meets a

violent end—and an acknowledged master of crime fiction delivers his most gripping novel yet On a sweltering summer afternoon, newspaper tycoon Richard Jewell—known to his many enemies as Diamond Dick—is discovered with his head blown off by a shotgun blast. But is it suicide or murder? For help with the investigation, Detective Inspector Hackett calls in his old friend Quirke, who has unusual access to Dublin's elite. Jewell's coolly elegant French wife, Françoise, seems less than shocked by her husband's death. But Dannie, Jewell's high-strung sister, is devastated, and Quirke is surprised to learn that in her grief she has turned to an unexpected friend: David Sinclair, Quirke's ambitious assistant in the pathology lab at the Hospital of the Holy Family. Further, Sinclair has been seeing Quirke's fractious daughter Phoebe, and an unlikely romance is blossoming between the two. As a record heat wave envelops the city and the secret deals underpinning Diamond Dick's empire begin to be revealed, Quirke and Hackett find themselves caught up in a dark web of intrigue and violence that threatens to end in disaster. Tightly plotted and

gorgeously written, *A Death in Summer* proves to be brilliant but sometimes reckless Quirke that in a city where old money and the right bloodlines rule, he is by no means safe from mortal danger.

The Book of Evidence Vintage A classic novel of family, isolation and a blighted Ireland from the Booker

Prize – winning author of *The Sea* depicts the end of innocence for a boy and his country. Once the big house on an Irish estate, Birchwood has turned into a dilapidated family manor filled with memories and despair. One disaster succeeds another, until young Gabriel Godkin runs away to join a traveling circus and look for his long-lost twin sister. Soon he discovers that famine and unrest stalk the countryside, and Ireland is ruined too. Told with lyrical prose, John Banville's *Birchwood* is the elegiac story of the aristocratic decline of an eccentric family riddled with dark secrets. "John Banville is one of the greatest masters of the English language." —*The Scotsman*

The Wilderness Graywolf Press

1919, Siberia . . . Deep in the unforgiving landscape a town lies under military rule, awaiting the remorseless assault of Bolsheviks along the Trans-Siberian railway. One night a stranger,

Samarin, appears from the woods with a tale of escape from an Arctic prison, insisting a cannibal is on his trail. Only Anna, a beautiful young widow, trusts his story. When a local shaman is found dead suspicion and terror engulf the isolated community, which harbours a secret of its own . . .

Disobedience Penguin Australia
' A beautiful, beguiling book full of resonances that continue to sound long after you ' ve turned the final page. Its imagining is magical, its execution dazzlingly skilful. ' Sunday Tribune Ghosts opens with a shipwreck, leaving a party of sightseers temporarily marooned on an island. The stranded castaways make their way towards the big isolated house which is home to the reclusive Professor Silas Kreutznaer and his laconic assistant, Licht, but it is also home to another, unnamed presence Onto this seemingly haunted island, where a strange singing hangs in the air, John Banville drops an intriguing cast of characters – including a murderer – and weaves a tale where the details are clear but the conclusion polymorphous – shifting appearances, transformations and thwarted assumptions make this world of uneasy calm utterly enthralling. The Infinities Pan Macmillan 'Perfectly controlled, superbly written. Waterland is original, compelling and narration of the highest order' Guardian In the years since its first publication, in 1983,

Waterland has established itself as one of the classics of twentieth-century British literature: a visionary tale of England's Fen country; a sinuous meditation on the workings of history; and a family story startling in its detail and universal in its reach. This edition includes an introduction, by the author, written to celebrate the book's 25th anniversary. 'Graham Swift has mapped his Waterland like a new Wessex. He appropriates the Fens as Moby Dick did whaling or Wuthering Heights the moors. This is a beautiful, serious and intelligent novel, admirably ambitious and original' Observer 'A 300-page tour de force . . . A burst of exuberant fictive energy' Evening Standard 'Waterland is a formidably intelligent book, animated by an impressive, angry pity at what human creatures are capable of doing to one another in the name of love and need. The most powerful novel I have read for some time' New York Review of Books

The Melody National Geographic Books

' Shroud will not be easily surpassed for its combination of wit, moral complexity and compassion. It is hard to see what more a novel could do ' Irish Times Axel Vander, distinguished intellectual and elderly academic, is not the man he seems. When a letter

arrives out of the blue, threatening to unveil his secrets – and carefully concealed identity – Vander travels to Turin to meet its author. There, muddled by age and alcohol, unable always to distinguish fact from fiction, Vander comes face to face with the woman who has the knowledge to unmask him, Cass Cleave. However, her sense of reality is as unreliable as his, and the two are quickly drawn together, their relationship dark, disturbed and doomed to disaster from its very start. ' In beautiful, lucid prose John Banville describes a tragedy so strongly rooted in history and character that, like all real tragedies, it could not happen otherwise ' The Times ' Banville is merciless in the details . . . he has a gift for enigmatic clarity ' Daily Telegraph ' The narrative frequently takes on the qualities of a dream, writhing with pursuits and escapes, peopled by shape-shifters and avatars, subject to its own climatic and topographical realities ' Guardian ' A moving and shockingly intimate record of life lost and found again ' Time Out The Silver Swan Henry Holt and Company *NATIONAL BESTSELLER* Booker Prize winner John Banville returns with a dark and evocative new mystery set on the Spanish coast Don't

disturb the dead... On the idyllic coast of San Sebastian, Spain, Dublin pathologist Quirke is struggling to relax, despite the beaches, cafés and the company of his disarmingly lovely wife. When he glimpses a familiar face in the twilight at Las Acadas bar, it's hard at first to tell whether his imagination is just running away with him. Because this young woman can't be April Latimer. She was murdered by her brother, years ago—the conclusion to an unspeakable scandal that shook one of Ireland's foremost political dynasties. Unable to ignore his instincts, Quirke makes a call back home to Ireland and soon Detective St. John Strafford is dispatched to Spain. But he's not the only one en route. A relentless hit man is on the hunt for his latest prey, and the next victim might be Quirke himself. Sumptuous, propulsive and utterly transporting, *April in Spain* is the work of a master writer at the top of his game. Don't miss John Banville's next novel, *The Lock-up!* Other riveting mysteries from John Banville: *Snow* Mefisto A&C Black 'This novel is essence of Banville ... a career summation' Daily Telegraph

Felix Mordaunt, recently released from prison, steps from a flashy red sports car onto the estate of his youth. But there is a new family living in the drafty old house: descendants of the late, world-famous scientist Adam Godley. Felix must now vie with the idiosyncratic Godley family, with their harried housekeeper who becomes his landlady, with the recently commissioned biographer of Godley Sr., and with a wealthy and beautiful woman from his past who comes bearing an unusual request... American Short Story Masterpieces Vintage From the Booker Prize-winning author of *The Sea* comes a novel set in sixteenth-century Europe about an obscure cleric who is preparing a theory that will shatter the medieval view of the universe—while being haunted by his malevolent brother and threatened by the conspiracies raging around him and his ideas. Sixteenth-century Europe is teeming with change and controversy: wars are being waged by princes and bishops and the repercussions of Luther are being felt through a convulsing Germany. In a remote corner of Poland a modest canon is practicing medicine and studying the heavens, preparing a theory that will shatter the medieval view of the universe. In this astonishing

work of historical imagination, John Banville offers a vivid portrait of a man of painful reticence. For, in a world that is equal parts splendor and barbarism, an obscure cleric who seeks “the secret music of the universe” poses a most devastating threat. *Athena* Anchor NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER • Colum McCann's beloved novel inspired by Philippe Petit's daring high-wire stunt, which is also depicted in the film *The Walk* starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt In the dawning light of a late-summer morning, the people of lower Manhattan stand hushed, staring up in disbelief at the Twin Towers. It is August 1974, and a mysterious tightrope walker is running, dancing, leaping between the towers, suspended a quarter mile above the ground. In the streets below, a slew of ordinary lives become extraordinary in bestselling novelist Colum McCann's stunningly intricate portrait of a city and its people. Let the *Great World Spin* be the critically acclaimed author's most ambitious novel yet: a dazzlingly rich vision of the pain, loveliness, mystery, and promise of New York City in the 1970s. Corrigan, a radical young Irish monk, struggles with his own demons as he lives among the prostitutes in the middle of the burning Bronx. A group of mothers gather in a Park Avenue apartment to mourn their sons who died in Vietnam, only to discover just how much divides them even in grief. A young artist finds herself at the scene of a hit-

and-run that sends her own life careening sideways. Tillie, a thirty-eight-year-old grandmother, turns tricks alongside her teenage daughter, determined not only to take care of her family but to prove her own worth. Elegantly weaving together these and other seemingly disparate lives, McCann's powerful allegory comes alive in the unforgettable voices of the city's people, unexpectedly drawn together by hope, beauty, and the "artistic crime of the century." A sweeping and radical social novel, *Let the Great World Spin* captures the spirit of America in a time of transition, extraordinary promise, and, in hindsight, heartbreaking innocence. Hailed as a "fiercely original talent" (San Francisco Chronicle), award-winning novelist McCann has delivered a triumphantly American masterpiece that awakens in us a sense of what the novel can achieve, confront, and even heal. Praise for *Let the Great World Spin* "This is a gorgeous book, multilayered and deeply felt, and it's a damned lot of fun to read, too. Leave it to an Irishman to write one of the greatest-ever novels about New York. There's so much passion and humor and pure life force on every page of *Let the Great World Spin* that you'll find yourself giddy, dizzy, overwhelmed." —Dave Eggers "Stunning . . . [an] elegiac glimpse of hope . . . It's a novel rooted firmly in time and place. It vividly captures New York at its worst and best. But it transcends all that. In the end, it's a novel about families—the ones we're born into and the ones we make for ourselves." —USA Today

"The first great 9/11 novel . . . We are all dancing on the wire of history, and even on solid ground we breathe the thinnest of air." —Esquire "Mesmerizing . . . a Joycean look at the lives of New Yorkers changed by a single act on a single day . . . Colum McCann's marvelously rich novel . . . weaves a portrait of a city and a moment, dizzyingly satisfying to read and difficult to put down." —The Seattle Times "Vibrantly whole . . . With a series of spare, gorgeously wrought vignettes, Colum McCann brings 1970s New York to life. . . . And as always, McCann's heart-stoppingly simple descriptions wow." —Entertainment Weekly "An act of pure bravado, dizzying proof that to keep your balance you need to know how to fall." —O: The Oprah Magazine *Birchwood Vintage* From the Booker Prize-winning author of *The Sea* comes a mesmerizing novel that is both a literary thriller and a love story as sumptuously perverse as *Lolita*. • "A strange and dreamlike book . . . Banville has a breathtaking style." —The Boston Globe *The Sea* by John Banville (Book Analysis) Pan Macmillan In this poignant debut novel, a woman finds herself caught between the Orthodox Jewish community that raised her and the secular world that changed her. *The Singularities* Harlequin Raymond Williams coined the notion "structure of

feeling" in the 1970s to facilitate a historical understanding of "affective elements of consciousness and relationships." Since then, the need to understand emotions, moods and atmospheres as historical and social phenomena has only become more acute in an era of social networking, ubiquitous media and a public sphere permeated by commodities and advertisement culture. Concomitantly, affect studies have become one of the most thriving branches of contemporary humanities and social sciences. This volume explores the significance of the study of affectivity for already thriving fields of cultural analysis such as media studies, memory studies, gender studies and cultural studies at large. The volume is divided into four sections. The first part, *Producing Affect*, brings together contributions which explore some of the ways in which new media works to produce and intensify affectivity. The essays making up the second part, *Affective Pasts*, explore the significance of affect to the ways we remember, commemorate and in other ways get hold of things in our recent and not so recent past — or fail to do

so. The essays engage the affective production of presence in contexts such as 9/11, the emotional culture of the eighteenth century, and literary auto-fiction. The third part, *Affective Thinking*, examines various concepts, theories, and forms of thinking not so much to show how the thinking in question may inform the field of affect studies but rather in order to draw attention to the way in which these modes of thinking are themselves already attuned to matters of affect. New social relations and ways of being in a networked world are the common themes of the essays in the final part of the volume, *Circulating Affect*. Eclipse Pan Macmillan

We were going out stealing horses. That was what he said, standing at the door to the cabin where I was spending the summer with my father. I was fifteen. It was 1948 and one of the first days of July. Trond's friend Jon often appeared at his doorstep with an adventure in mind for the two of them. But this morning was different. What began as a joy ride on "borrowed" horses ends with Jon falling into a strange trance of grief. Trond soon learns what befell Jon earlier that

day—an incident that marks the beginning of a series of vital losses for both boys. Set in the easternmost region of Norway, *Out Stealing Horses* by Per Petterson begins with an ending. Sixty-seven-year-old Trond has settled into a rustic cabin in an isolated area to live the rest of his life with a quiet deliberation. A meeting with his only neighbor, however, forces him to reflect on that fateful summer.

Being Dead

BrightSummaries.com

WINNER OF THE MAN BOOKER PRIZE

WINNER OF THE DUBLIN LITERARY

AWARD 'Utterly

compelling' Irish Times

'Original, funny, disarmingly

oblique' CLAIRE KILROY

'A triumph.' Guardian In an

unnamed city, where to be

interesting is dangerous, an

eighteen-year-old woman

has attracted the unwanted

and unavoidable attention of

a powerful and frightening

older man, 'Milkman'. In

this community, where

suggestions quickly become

fact, where gossip and

hearsay can lead to terrible

consequences, what can she

do to stop a rumour once it

has started? Milkman is

persistent, the word is

spreading, and she is no

longer in control . . .

SHORTLISTED FOR THE RATHBONES FOLIO

PRIZE SHORTLISTED

FOR THE WOMEN'S

PRIZE FOR FICTION

SHORTLISTED FOR THE

ORWELL PRIZE FOR

POLITICAL FICTION

Ghosts National Geographic

Books

A National Book Critics

Circle Awards Winner From

the author of *Quarantine*

comes *Being Dead*, Jim

Crace's haunting novel

about love, death, and the

afterlife. Baritone Bay, mid-

afternoon. A couple, naked,

married almost thirty years,

are lying murdered in the

dunes. "Their bodies had

expired, but anyone could

tell--just look at them--that

Joseph and Celice were still

devoted. For while his hand

was touching her, curved

round her shin, the couple

seemed to have achieved

that peace the world denies,

a period of grace, defying

even murder. Anyone who

found them there, so

wickedly disfigured, would

nevertheless be bound to see

that something of their love

had survived the death of

cells. The corpses were

surrendered to the weather

and the earth, but they were

still a man and wife, quietly

resting; flesh on flesh; dead,

but not departed yet."

Ancient Light Vintage

John Banville (b. 1945) is a distinguished novelist and winner of several prestigious awards, including the Man Booker Prize for his novel *The Sea*. As a teenager Banville hoped to be a painter, and although he ultimately decided he lacked the talent for it, his passion for painting continues to influence and inform his work. Banville conceives the novel as a work of art aimed not at the present, but for the ages. He aspires to create narratives that offer readers a sense of what it is to be conscious, human, and feeling, and aims to convey his conviction that "the familiar is always unfamiliar, the ordinary extraordinary."

Conversations with John Banville is the first interview collection with this esteemed writer and includes eighteen interviews that reflect on nearly five decades of work, from his first book, *Long Lankin*, to his novel *Mrs. Osmond* and memoir, *Time Pieces*. The collection also includes discussions about—and with, in the case of James Gleick's 2014

interview—Banville's alter ego, Benjamin Black, who writes crime novels. Highly engaging and insightful, Banville's interviews offer a variety of writerly autobiography regarding what he has aimed to do in his work and how he continues to pursue perfection, which he has known from the beginning must be impossible.

The Blue Guitar Henry Holt and Company

Prague is the magic capital

of Europe. Since the days of Emperor Rudolf II, 'devotee of the stars and cultivator of the spagyric art', who in the late 1500s summoned alchemists and magicians from all over the world to his castle on Hradcany hill, it has been a place of mystery and intrigue. Wars, revolutions, floods, the imposition of Soviet communism, or even the depredations of the tourist boom after the 'Velvet Revolution' of 1989, could not destroy the unique atmosphere of this beautiful, proud and melancholy city on the Vltava. John Banville traces Prague's often tragic history and portrays the people who made it, the emperors and princes, geniuses and charlatans, heroes and scoundrels, and paints a portrait of the Prague of today, revelling in its newfound freedoms, eager to join the European Community and at the same time suspicious of what many Praguers see as yet another totalitarian takeover. He writes of his first visit to the city, in the depths of the Cold War, when he engaged in a spot of art smuggling, and of subsequent trips there, of the people he met, the friends he made, the places he came to know.