Celebrating the Emerald Isle

In honor of St. Patrick’s Day, perhaps your book club would like to do an Irish themed book discussion. Here is a list of novels that encompass all things Irish.

**Brooklyn** by Colm Toibin
Leaving her home in post-World War II Ireland to work as a bookkeeper in Brooklyn, Eilis Lacey reluctantly parts with her sister and fragile mother and discovers a new romance in America with a charming blond Italian man before devastating news threatens her happiness.

**An Irish Country Doctor** (Irish Country Book Series) by Patrick Taylor
Barry Laverty, a recent medical school graduate, jumps at the chance to join a rural practice in Ballybucklebo, Northern Ireland, until he meets his boss Dr. O'Reilly, a difficult older physician with his own way of doing things.

**The Last Storyteller** by Frank Delaney
Ireland, 1956. Although Ben MacCarthy wants no part of an upstart insurrection along the northern border, he unknowingly falls in with an IRA sympathizer and is compromised into running guns. Yet despite his perilous circumstances, all he can think about is finding his former wife and true love, the actress Venetia Kelly.

**Let the Great World Spin** by Colum McCann
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. Weaving together these and other seemingly disparate lives, McCann's allegory comes alive in the voices of the city's people, unexpectedly drawn together by hope, beauty, and the "artistic crime of the century"--a mysterious tightrope walker dancing between the Twin Towers.

**Nora Webster** by Colm Toibin
Struggling with grief and financial hardships after the death of her beloved husband, widow, Nora Webster struggles to support her four children and clings to secrecy in the intrusive community of her childhood before finding her voice.

**The Princes of Ireland** (Book One of The Dublin Saga) by Edward Rutherfurd
A fictional account of the legend of Cuchulainn recreates such events as the mission of Saint Patrick, the Viking invasion, the trickery of Henry II that led to England's establishment in Ireland, the failed rebellion of 1798, and the Great Famine.

**Thirteen Ways of Looking** by Colum McCann
A story collection includes the title novella, in which an octogenarian retired judge's musings on his life are interrupted by police updates about his murder later that afternoon.

Sláinte!

Summaries from the publishers.

-Lisa J., Readers’ Services Librarian
Looking for More Books with the Title “The Girl...?”

As a Readers’ Services librarian, I have the wonderful job of discussing books every day. After having a conversation with a patron comparing book titles beginning with “The Girl,” I thought it would be interesting to look at the growing list. The patron was reading The Girl in the Spider’s Web: A Lisbeth Salander Novel, continuing Stieg Larsson’s Millennium Series. Interestingly enough, I happened to be reading two books with the title: The Girl Behind the Door: A Father’s Quest to Understand His Daughter’s Suicide by John Brooks and The Girl in the Red Coat by Kate Hamer. Here is a list of books, with “The Girl “in the title, that your book group may be interested in reading:

The Girl Behind the Door: A Father’s Quest to Understand His Daughter’s Suicide by John Brooks (nonfiction)
In a wake-up call for parents, teens, and mental health professionals, the author searches for the truth about his adoptive daughter’s suicide, spending months trying to understand what made the teen take her life.

The Girl from the Paradise Ballroom by Alison Love (due out in April)
Years after an electric chance encounter in a seedy ballroom, a struggling Italian singer and a hostess-turned-British society wife meet again on the dawn of World War II and are unable to resist their feelings for each other as they are separated by Italy’s war on England.

The Girl in the Ice by Lotte and Soren Hammer
When the body of a girl is discovered in the melting Greenland ice cap, hundreds of miles from any civilization, Detective Chief Superintendent Konrad Simonsen investigates the murder and discovers disturbing details about some of Denmark’s most powerful figures.

The Girl in the Red Coat by Kate Hamer
When her daughter Carmel disappears during an outdoor festival, Beth, despite being told by authorities she may be gone for good, embarks on a mission to find her.

The Girl in the Spider’s Web: A Lisbeth Salander Novel by David Lagercrantz
After receiving a call from a trusted source claiming to have vital information to the United States, journalist Mikael Blomkvist turns to hacker Lisbeth for help.

Summaries from the publishers.
- Jean Simpson, Readers’ Services Librarian

New to Book Club in a Bag

Readers’ Services has added the following book to our Book Club in a Bag collection:

A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman

In this bestselling and delightfully quirky debut novel from Sweden, a grumpy yet loveable man finds his solitary world turned on its head when a boisterous young family moves in next door.

“Meet Ove. He’s a curmudgeon—the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. He has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People call him “the bitter neighbor from hell.” But must Ove be bitter just because he doesn’t walk around with a smile plastered to his face all the time?

Behind the cranky exterior there is a story and a sadness. So when one November morning a chatty young couple with two chatty young daughters move in next door and accidentally flatten Ove’s mailbox, it is the lead-in to a comical and heartwarming tale of unkempt cats, unexpected friendship, and the ancient art of backing up a U-Haul. All of which will change one cranky old man and a local residents’ association to their very foundations.” -From the publisher

Let us provide everything you need for a successful book discussion. We can supply you with 10 copies of the book and a discussion binder. The binder contains discussion questions, biographical information and critical material. Please contact Readers’ Services, 921-7161, ext 239 to reserve a book for your Book Club.
- Evelyn Hershkowitz, Readers’ Services Librarian