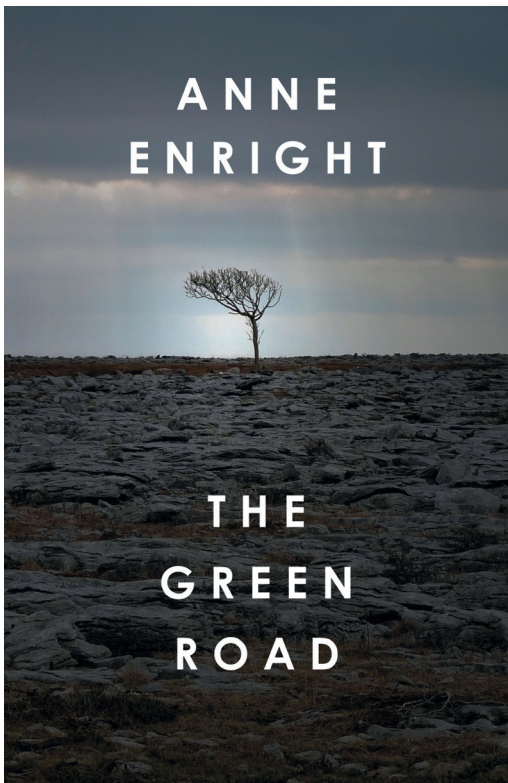


# Reader's Guide



#### Other novels by Anne Enright

*The Wig My Father Wore* (1995)

*What Are You Like?* (2000)

*The Pleasure of Eliza Lynch* (2002)

*The Gathering* (2007)

*The Forgotten Waltz* (2011)

## The Green Road Anne Enright

Jonathan Cape

[www.themanbookerprize.com](http://www.themanbookerprize.com)

#FinestFiction



## About the author

Anne Enright was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1962.

After studying creative writing under Malcolm Bradbury and Angela Carter at the University of East Anglia, she worked for six years as a TV producer and director in Ireland.

*What Are You Like?* was shortlisted for the Whitbread Novel Award and won the Encore Award. Her first work of non-fiction, *Making Babies: Stumbling into Motherhood*, was published in 2004. *Enright* won the 2007 Man Booker Prize for Fiction for *The Gathering*.

She is married to the actor Martin Murphy, and lives in Dublin.

## The Green Road

*The Green Road* is a story of fracture and family, selfishness and compassion – a book about the gaps in the human heart and how we learn to fill them.

The children of Rosaleen Madigan leave the west of Ireland for lives they never could have imagined in Dublin, New York and various third-world towns. In her early old age their difficult, wonderful mother announces that she's decided to sell the house and divide the proceeds. Her adult children come back for a last Christmas, with the feeling that their childhoods are being erased, their personal history bought and sold.

## Discussion points

Do you agree with the reviewer who suggested that 'In many ways, *The Green Road* works best if we think of it as a series of short stories' (Alex Preston, *The Guardian*)?

Rosaleen writes Christmas cards to each of her children. What does her card to each child tell you about their relationship? What do the cards tell you about her?

Did your attitude towards Rosaleen change towards the end of the novel?

Dan, Hanna, Constance, and Emmet all have aspects of their private lives that they do not share with each other. What do they hide from one another, and why?

When the children return home, they come back to a country that looks quite different than the Ireland they grew up in. How has it changed?

Anne Enright has said that a major theme of *The Green Road* is compassion. How do members of the Madigan family show compassion to one another?

## Themed reading

Jonathan Franzen *The Corrections*  
Carol Shields *The Stone Diaries*  
Virginia Woolf *To the Lighthouse*

## Useful links

[www.themanbookerprize.com](http://www.themanbookerprize.com)  
[www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b05tbwsg](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b05tbwsg)  
<http://www.vintage-books.co.uk/blog/author-interviews/AnneEnright/>