

Fighting with Shadows



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Fighting with Shadows is Dermot Healy's long-awaited and extraordinary first novel, which more than fulfils the expectation created by his prize-winning collection of stories, *Banished Misfortune*.

Set in the beautiful lake country that straddles the Fermanagh border, the novel opens in the Northern Irish village of Fanacross through which a river passes from the South to the

North and back to the South again, leaving in its wake bombed bridges, army checkpoints and failed communities. At first the people drift helplessly amid rumours of drought in the South and news of death in the North, then the full impact of the war takes its course.

In this unpredictable world where the Allen family - one among many - is being pulled apart by state and para-military violence, and where the violence of that conflict has been internalized and love seems to be forever thwarted, life has become a fight with shadows.

But while the novel concerns itself with tragedy and survival, it is at the same time a book of outstanding vitality and humour set robustly in the here-and-now of contemporary Ireland, and the Aliens and the many other characters have a resilience and dignity that commands respect. In *Fighting with Shadows* Dermot Healy has written a novel which is both a *crûde coeur* and a celebration of life.

作者介绍:

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