

Belfast Confetti: A Poetic and Personal Journey Through the Troubles



Belfast Confetti by Ciaran Carson

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language	: English
Paperback	: 96 pages
Item Weight	: 4 ounces
Dimensions	: 5.3 x 0.3 x 8.2 inches
File size	: 3166 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Print length	: 82 pages
Lending	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported

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Suddenly as the riot squad moved in it was raining exclamation marks,
Nuts, bolts, nails, car-keys, a fault of broken type. And
the explosion
Itself - an asterisk on the map, this hyperated line, a burst
of rapid fire
I was trying to complete a sentence in my head, but it kept
stuttering,
All the alleyways and side streets blocked with steps and
colours,
I know this labyrinth so well - Balaklava, Roghan, Inkerman,
Odessa Street -
Why can't I escape? Every move is punctuated, Crimea Street,
Dead end again,
A Saracen, Kremlin-2 mesh, Makrolan face-shields, Walkie-
talkies. What is
My name? Where am I coming from? Where am I going?
A fusillade of question-marks.



Belfast Confetti is a groundbreaking work of poetry by Ciaran Carson that explores the complex and often contradictory experiences of growing up in Belfast during the Troubles. The poem is a powerful and moving account of the city and its people, and it has been praised for its honesty, insight, and beauty.

Carson was born in Belfast in 1948, and he grew up during a time of great turmoil and violence. The Troubles, a period of sectarian conflict that lasted from the late 1960s to the late 1990s, had a profound impact on Carson's life and work. Belfast Confetti is a deeply personal account of this time, and it offers a unique insight into the lives of those who lived through it.

The poem is divided into three parts. The first part, "The City," describes Carson's childhood in Belfast. He writes about the city's beauty and vibrancy, but he also captures the sense of fear and uncertainty that was always present. The second part, "The War," is a more explicitly political account of the Troubles. Carson writes about the violence, the hatred, and the divisions that tore Belfast apart. The third part, "The Peace," offers a more hopeful vision of the future. Carson writes about the peace process and the possibility of reconciliation.

Belfast Confetti is a complex and challenging poem, but it is also a deeply rewarding one. Carson's writing is both beautiful and brutal, and he captures the full range of human experience. The poem is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit, and it is a powerful reminder of the importance of peace.

Critical Reception

Belfast Confetti has been widely praised by critics for its honesty, insight, and beauty. The poem has been awarded numerous prizes, including the T.S. Eliot Prize and the Whitbread Poetry Award. It has also been translated into several languages.

In a review for *The Guardian*, Seamus Heaney wrote: "Belfast Confetti is a major work of art. It is a poem that will stay with me for a long time." *The New York Times* called the poem "a masterpiece of contemporary poetry." And in *The Irish Times*, Edna O'Brien wrote: "Belfast Confetti is a poem of great power and beauty. It is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the Troubles."

Themes

Belfast Confetti explores a wide range of themes, including:

- The Troubles
- Violence
- Hatred
- Division
- Peace
- Reconciliation
- Childhood
- Memory
- Identity

Carson's writing is often characterized by its use of irony and paradox. He is able to capture the complex and often contradictory nature of human experience. Belfast Confetti is a poem that is full of both hope and despair, and it offers a unique insight into the human condition.

Belfast Confetti is a powerful and moving account of the Troubles. The poem is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit, and it is a powerful reminder of the importance of peace. Belfast Confetti is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the Troubles or who is interested in contemporary poetry.



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