



BOOK REVIEWS

A round up of the best books on the market

Little Black Everything

by **Damien Owens**

Published by **Poolbeg** (€15.99)

Reviewed by **Briega McGarry**

Holly Christmas hasn't had many boyfriends. Now, freshly single once again, Holly is beginning to worry. Could it be that the problem is her temperament? She likes to think of herself as honest and refreshingly forthright; everyone else seems to find her caustic and shockingly blunt, ie, with more prickliness than a hedgehog standing on a cactus. When she meets a new colleague at the school where she teaches, Holly is intrigued. He's relaxed and easy-going, carefree and relentlessly optimistic – everything she is not. Could this, finally, be the man for her? And, if so, will she need a personality transplant? An enjoyable book for anyone who knows that they're slightly more highly strung than others (you know who you are)...

The Infinities

by **John Banville**

Published by **Picador**, €14.99

Reviewed by **Kate Whiting**

While Banville's previous novel *The Sea* won the 2005 Man Booker Prize, *The Infinities* failed to make this year's longlist, although it is arguably something of a modern classic. Set over the course of one summer day at Arden, the sprawling family home of the Godleys, the novel is narrated by Hermes, the messenger god, who is watching over events from his heavenly post. Esteemed mathematician and patriarch Old Adam lies in a coma, while his son Adam returns to the house with wife Helen and daughter Petra. With beautiful detail, Banville conjures the dying thoughts of the father, the mischievous and bawdy meddling of the gods, and the private suffering and elation of each character. *The Infinities* also poses age-old questions about time and space, and what it means to be mortal.

When I Found You

by **Catherine Ryan Hyde**

Published by **Black Swan**, €8.99

Reviewed by **Abigail Jackson**

Nathan McCann is middle-aged and unhappy in his marriage. But everything changes when he discovers an abandoned newborn baby while out with his dog one morning in 1960. Nathan wants to adopt the boy, but the baby is sent to live with his grandmother. However, Nathan finds a way to stay linked with the child's life, albeit from afar – until years later, when a confused and troubled lad turns up at his door. After years of wondering how things might have been, had he become the boy's father, Nathan suddenly faces a very different reality. This could easily have been predictable and simplistic, but Catherine Ryan Hyde's sensitivity and sympathetic observations make this an engaging and touching read.

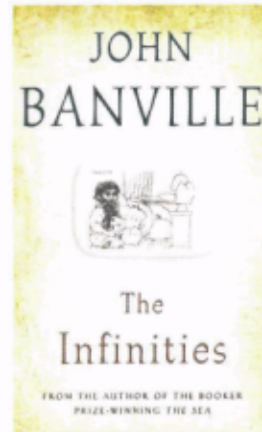
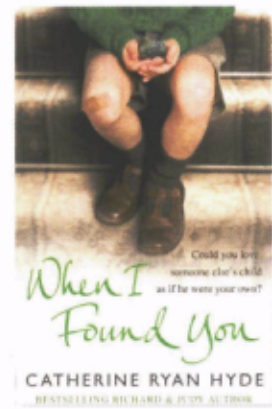
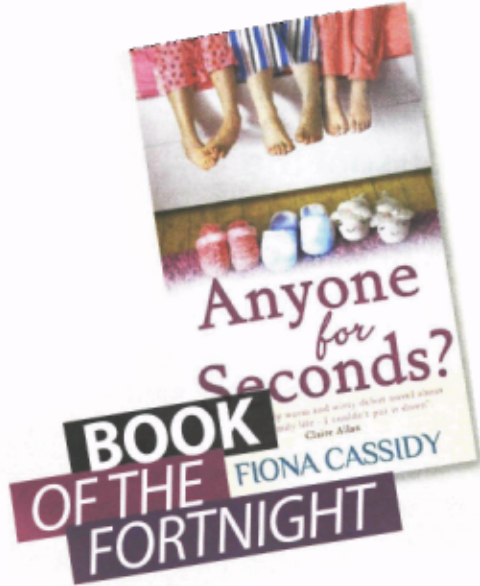
Anyone for Seconds?

by **Fiona Cassidy**

Published by **Poolbeg**, €8.99

Reviewed by **Aine Toner**

Meet Frankie McCormick, lone parent to Ben and Carly, PR guru and a woman who finds men who wear glasses irresistible. Enter Owen Byrne, the Clark Kent(ish) man who is simply everything she's wished for – and more. The one fly in the ointment comes in the form of his teenage daughter, the seriously misnamed Angelica, who is determined to ruin her daddy's relationship. The path of true love never runs smooth (as we all know) but for Frankie and Owen the road is especially dangerous and fraught with tense times. Family crises, interfering in-laws, a particularly nasty granny and a bittersweet tragedy all culminate to test their relationship while faces from the past threaten their future as a family. Second chances don't pop up very often and when they do it's best to grab them with both hands... but will they? A great book for a Saturday afternoon, we in *Woman's Way* will be interested to see what Cassidy has in store...



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