



Black Irish: A Novel

By *Stephan Talty*

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NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

In this explosive debut thriller by the author of *Empire of Blue Water*, a brilliant homicide detective returns home, where she confronts a city's dark demons and her own past while pursuing a brutal serial killer on a vengeful rampage.

Absalom “Abbie” Kearney grew up an outsider in her own hometown. Even being the adopted daughter of a revered cop couldn't keep Abbie's troubled past from making her a misfit in the working-class Irish American enclave of South Buffalo. And now, despite a Harvard degree and a police detective's badge, she still struggles to earn the respect and trust of those she's sworn to protect. But all that may change, once the killing starts.

When Jimmy Ryan's mangled corpse is found in a local church basement, this sadistic sacrilege sends a bone-deep chill through the winter-whipped city. It also seems to send a message—one that Abbie believes only the fiercely secretive citizens of the neighborhood known as “the County” understand. But in a town ruled by an old-world code of silence and secrecy, her search for answers is stonewalled at every turn, even by fellow cops. Only when Abbie finds a lead at the Gaelic Club, where war stories, gossip, and confidences flow as freely as the drink, do tongues begin to wag—with desperate warnings and dire threats. And when the killer's mysterious calling card appears on her own doorstep, the hunt takes a shocking twist into her own family's past. As the grisly murders and grim revelations multiply, Abbie wages a chilling battle of wits with a maniac who sees into her soul, and she swears to expose the County's hidden history—one bloody body at a time.

With *Black Irish*, Stephen Talty stakes a place beside Jo Nesbø, John Sandford, and Tana French on the cutting edge of psychological crime thrillers.

Praise for *Black Irish*

“Abbie Kearney is one of the most intriguing new suspense protagonists in memory, and *Black Irish* marks the captivating start of a brilliant thriller series.”—**Tess Gerritsen**

“Luxuriantly cinematic . . . a compulsively readable crime thriller . . . Move over V. I. Warshawski; Buffalo gets its own crime novel heroine.”—*The Buffalo News*

“A suspenseful debut novel with a circuitous plot . . . *Black Irish* is simply a riveting read.”—*Booklist* (starred review)

“Talty shows his chops when recounting [Buffalo’s] Irish roots.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Talty does a fine job portraying the cohesiveness of the Irish, their loyalty to one another, and their obsession with their history. . . . A memorable story of betrayal and vengeance.”—*Publishers Weekly*

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Detective Absalom Kearny of the Buffalo (NY) PD is caring for her aged, adoptive father, John, a legendary, former detective himself. Smart and driven, Abbie is seen by fellow cops as a rising star. But she may be too driven, and the savage torture-murder of Jimmy Ryan, a resident of the city's clannish Irish enclave, "the County," drives her toward obsession. More grisly murders occur, and even though Abbie grew up in the County, no one will talk with her, even though many know what is happening; the County avenges its own. Talty, author of several lauded nonfiction books (*Agent Garbo*, 2012), has produced a suspenseful debut novel with a circuitous plot. Abbie is a wonderfully complex and conflicted character, but it is the County—which may exist in Buffalo and certainly exists in other northeastern cities—that shines brightest. It's a place where a boy whose people came from Mayo isn't allowed to date a Kilkenny girl, and its residents share an "ancestral memory of being oppressed in a country they'd never been to." Economically ravaged Buffalo is portrayed in broader brushstrokes, but the sense of place is palpably evocative. *Black Irish* is simply a riveting read. --Thomas Gaughan

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About the Author

Stephan Talty is the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Empire of Blue Water*, as well as *Escape from the Land of Snows*, *The Illustrious Dead*, and *Mulatto America*. *Black Irish* is his first novel.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Anna Sanders:

Book is usually written, printed, or outlined for everything. You can realize everything you want by a reserve. Book has a different type. As it is known to us that book is important point to bring us around the world. Adjacent to that you can your reading skill was fluently. A publication *Black Irish: A Novel* will make you to be smarter. You can feel a lot more confidence if you can know about anything. But some of you think this open or reading a book make you bored. It is not make you fun. Why they are often thought like that? Have you searching for best book or suited book with you?

Eugene Hughes:

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Helen Hanson:

This book untitled Black Irish: A Novel to be one of several books which best seller in this year, here is because when you read this reserve you can get a lot of benefit in it. You will easily to buy this book in the book retailer or you can order it by means of online. The publisher of the book sells the e-book too. It makes you quickly to read this book, as you can read this book in your Mobile phone. So there is no reason for your requirements to past this guide from your list.

Heather Garcia:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read a book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent the entire day to reading a book. The book Black Irish: A Novel it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book possesses high quality.

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