



The Deportees: and Other Stories

By Roddy Doyle

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Stories that take a new slant on the immigrant experience, from the Booker Prize-winning author of *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*

Watch for Roddy Doyle's new novel, *Smile*, coming in October of 2017

Roddy Doyle has earned a devoted following amongst those who appreciate his sly humor, acute ear for dialogue, and deeply human portraits of contemporary Ireland. *The Deportees* is Doyle's first-ever collection of short stories, and each tale describes the cultural collision—often funny and always poignant—between a native and someone new to the fast-changing country. From a nine-year-old African boy's first day at school to a man who's devised a test for "Irishness" to the return of *The Commitments*'s Jimmy Rabbitte and the debut of his new multicultural band, Doyle offers his signature take on the immigrant experience in a volume reminiscent of his beloved early novels.

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The Deportees: and Other Stories By Roddy Doyle Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Doyle's dynamic first collection of short stories offers light and heartfelt perspectives on the effects of immigration on Irish culture. Originally serialized for a Dublin newspaper, all eight stories draw from the conceit of someone born in Ireland [who] meets someone who has come to live there. The opener, *Guess Who's Coming for the Dinner*, covers familiar ground—a self-proclaimed modern father is taken aback when his daughter invites a black fella to dinner—but Doyle's wry sense of humor saves the narrative from triteness. Fans of Doyle's previous work will revel in the title story, a follow-up to *The Commitments* that finds Jimmy Rabbitte masterminding a multicultural revival of Woody Guthrie music. The later stories find Doyle experimenting with different styles and voices: *New Boy* charts an unlikely friendship between a nine-year-old African immigrant and two small, angry Irish boys, while *Black Hoodie* finds a timid, indifferent teenager discovering his passion for civil rights and a Nigerian girl. There are some abrupt endings that veer toward the convenient, though this may be an unavoidable consequence of their serial origins. Doyle's immense talent as a writer is neatly showcased throughout, and his sharp wit adds a richness to every tale. (*Jan.*)

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Roddy Doyle, celebrated chronicler of the Irish working class and winner of the 1993 Man Booker Prize (*Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*), turns his attention to the immigrant experience in his first collection of short stories. The stories collected here first appeared in 800-word installments in the Dublin weekly newspaper *Metro Eireann*, which was founded in 2000 by two Nigerian journalists. Critics agreed that *The Deportees* is vintage Doyle, demonstrating his sharp wit, lively sense of humor, richly drawn characters, and ear for dialogue. They cited some problems related to the space limitations of serial publications, which result in stories that "are generally instantly engaging but not always carefully constructed" (*Christian Science Monitor*), but these problems were easy to ignore given Doyle's extraordinary storytelling abilities. As in any collection, critics disagreed about which stories succeed best. By turns poignant and chilling, heartbreaking and laugh-out-loud funny, Doyle's stories are as affecting as his novels.

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Review

"Writing at the top of his form...Doyle proves a brilliant, offbeat Dublin diplomat. He imagines, with humour and humanity, the difficulties involved in being Irish and in being foreign and unassimilated in Ireland. He has the sharpest eye, the wildest sense of humour and the most benevolent heart" Observer "Constantly inventive, extremely funny and illustrate his ability to get under the skin of ordinary people" Daily Mail "It's as if Roddy Doyle went out on the streets for you with his own microphone and camcorder... You're there, whether you want to be or not" -- Maeve Binchy The Times "The evident sincerity and unrepentant good cheer of these stories will carry the reader a long way with them" Independent on Sunday "Much to admire and enjoy" Sunday Times

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lois Reyna:

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