The sea as a setting and a symbol in contemporary Irish and British fiction: Dermot Bolger’s Temptation (2000), John Banville’s The Sea (2005), Ian McEwan’s On Chesil Beach (2007)

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Abstract
This dissertation investigates the function of the sea in contemporary British and Irish literature, focusing on the following three novels: Dermot Bolger’s Temptation (2000), John Banville’s The Sea (2005), and Ian McEwan’s On Chesil Beach (2007). The analysis is divided into two main parts, where the sea is considered in its roles as a setting and as a symbol. The former section starts with a subsection on narrative and continues to investigate how the sea functions as a setting for childhood memories and for an escape from civilisation. It shows that the sea operates as a maker of character in all three novels, similarly to sea adventure fiction of the eighteenth century, whose protagonists also gained strength from it. However, it is... (More)
John Banville (Contemporary Irish Writers series), Bucknell University Press, 2018. “John Banville” offers a close analysis of most of Banville’s major novels, as well as the ‘Quirke’ crime novels he has written under the pseudonym Benjamin Black and his dramatic adaptations of Heinrich von Kleist’s plays. From the more. “John Banville” offers a close analysis of most of Banville’s major novels, as well as the ‘Quirke’ crime novels he has written under the pseudonym Benjamin Black and his dramatic adaptations of Heinrich von Kleist’s plays. The chapter investigates the most significant patterns than can be traced in Irish contemporary fiction’s interest in the sea and its related maritime topographies, and argues how the most resonant associations of the sea imagery lie in more. Contributors and stories include: John Banville, from Mefisto; Leland Bardwell, “The Hairdresser”; Sebastian Barry, from The Engine of Owl-Light; Mary Beckett, "Heaven"; Samuel Beckett, “For to End Yet Again”; Sara Berkeley, “The Sky’s Gone Out”; Dermot Bolger, “The Journey Home”; Claire Boylan, “Villa Marta”; Shane Connaughton, “Ojus”; Mary Dorsey, “The Husband”; Roddy Doyle, from The Snapper; Anne Enright, “Men and Angels” Dermot Bolger is a renowned Irish poet, playwright, and novelist with over 45 works to his name. In his writing, he concerns himself with the Irish middle class and the struggles many face trying to understand the relevance of traditional national... People Who Read The Vintage Book of Contemporary Irish Fiction Also Read: Twentieth-Century British and Irish Fiction Volume II. Twentieth-Century American Fiction Volume III. Twentieth-Century World Fiction. Other publications include studies of twentieth-century and contemporary fiction, poetry, and drama. Nick Bentley lectures in English literature at Keele University. His main research interests are in post-1945 British literature and literary and cultural theory, and especially in intersections of postmodernism, postcolonialism, and contemporary fiction and culture.