

### ***The Boy from the Sea* by Garrett Carr – suggested bookclub questions**

- What did you think of the way the story was told, in the warm, gossipy, communal voice of Killybegs, instead of the author choosing one point of view? Why do you think the author might have chosen to do this?
- How did the rivalry between Declan and Brendan make you feel as the novel progressed, and their animosity deepened? Did you feel yourself taking the side of one brother, or could you see the divide from both sides? How do you feel the author handled their feud?
- What did you think of the portrayal of the fishing community in Killybegs? How well do you feel the author captured the atmosphere and community of a small town? Is there anything you would have done differently?
- Discuss how money is portrayed in *The Boy from the Sea*. As the narrator suggests, there isn't a traditional class system in place in Killybegs, yet money – the lack of it, the ownership of it – dominates the lives of every character, especially Declan, whose awareness of this is 'buried in his spine' and would 'influence him all his life'. How do you think growing up with their parents in debt and constantly short of money affected the paths of Brendan and Declan as they grew up?
- If Garrett Carr wrote a sequel (or prequel!) to *The Boy from the Sea*, who's story would you most like to see told? What would that story look like, do you think?
- What did you think of the author's portrayal of masculinity in *The Boy from the Sea*? Consider fatherhood, brotherhood, and friendship between men. How well do you think the author captured the truth of these relationships?
- What was your reaction when it was revealed Brendan himself had spread the rumour about Ambrose being his real father? Did it surprise you? How did you feel towards Brendan afterwards, especially with the impact the rumour had on his family?
- *The Boy from the Sea* is full of quietly surprising, yet sometimes shocking, scenes. Which scene surprised you the most, or elicited the most emotional response? Why was that?
- What did you think of the ending, when Brendan chooses to leave Killybegs to study History at university? Did you want Brendan to stay, or did you think that ending was inevitable? How did you feel about the way things were left off between the two brothers? What do you think happens to the two brothers after the book's close?
- Who would you cast in a film or television adaptation of *The Boy from the Sea*, and why? Do you think it would lend itself well to the screen?