



The Empty Family: Stories

Colm Toibin

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On the heels of his bestselling and award-winning novel *Brooklyn*, Colm Tóibín returns with a stunning collection of stories—now available in paperback—“a book that’s both a perfect introduction to Tóibín and, for longtime fans, a bracing pleasure” (*The Seattle Times*).

Critics praised *Brooklyn* as a “beautifully rendered portrait of Brooklyn and provincial Ireland in the 1950s.” In *The Empty Family*, Tóibín has extended his imagination further, offering an incredible range of periods and characters—people linked by love, loneliness, desire—“the unvarying dilemmas of the human heart” (*The Observer*, UK).

In the breathtaking long story “The Street,” Tóibín imagines a relationship between Pakistani workers in Barcelona—a taboo affair in a community ruled by obedience and silence. In “Two Women,” an eminent and taciturn Irish set designer takes a job in her homeland and must confront emotions she has long repressed. “Silence” is a brilliant historical set piece about Lady Gregory, who tells the writer Henry James a confessional story at a dinner party.

Reviewed on the front page of *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Empty Family* will further cement Tóibín’s status as “his generation’s most gifted writer of love’s complicated, contradictory power” (*Los Angeles Times*).

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