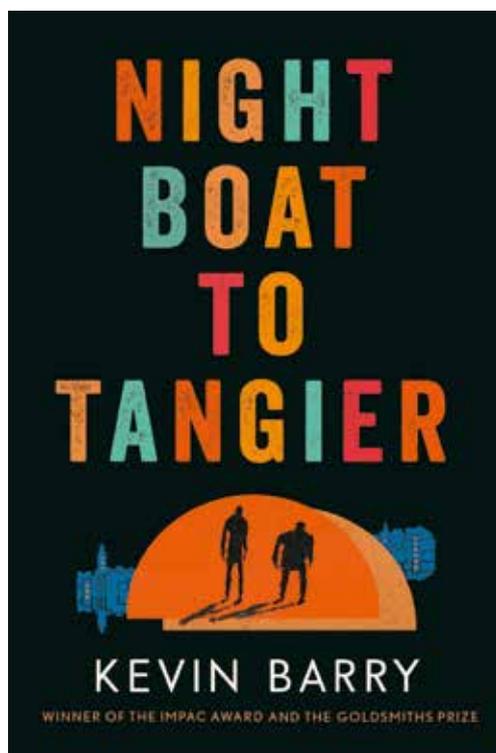




# Readers' Guide



## Night Boat to Tangier

### Kevin Barry

Canongate Books

Other novels by Kevin Barry

*Beatlebone* (2015)

*Dark Lies the Island* (2012)

*City of Bohane* (2011)

*There Are Little Kingdoms* (2007)

[thebookerprizes.com](http://thebookerprizes.com)

## About the author

Kevin Barry was born in Limerick, Ireland on 25 June 1969. He is the author of the novels *Beatlebone* and *City of Bohane* and two short story collections. He was awarded the Rooney Prize in 2007 and won the *Sunday Times* EFG Short Story Prize in 2012. For *City of Bohane* he won the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, the European Prize for Literature and the Authors' Club First Novel Prize, and was shortlisted for the Costa First Novel Award and the Irish Book Awards. His second novel *Beatlebone* was the winner of the Goldsmiths Prize and was shortlisted for the Irish Book Awards. He lives in Ireland.

## About the book

It's late one night at the Spanish port of Algeciras and two fading Irish gangsters are waiting on the boat from Tangier. A lover has been lost, a daughter has gone missing, their world has come asunder. Can it be put together again?

This is a novel drenched in sex and death and narcotics, in sudden violence and old magic, but it is obsessed, above all, with the mysteries of love. A tragicomic masterwork from a multi-award-winning writer, *Night Boat to Tangier* is both mordant and hilarious, lyrical yet laden with menace.

## What the judges thought

"A rogue gem of a novel, *Night Boat to Tangier* is a work of crime fiction not quite like any other. The seedy underbelly of a Spanish port and a stony Irish town are the backdrop for a story of misdeeds, madness and loss that swells with poetry and pathos."

## Discussion points

Kevin Barry's novel is written with ingenious use of language as it is spoken and heard in the West of Ireland. How does this specificity change our experience of his characters' inner lives? What other writers have chosen this vernacular form?

How do the chapters set in the past give us more of an insight into Maurice and Charlie's friendship than if it was all set in the present?

What relevance does the setting of a ferry terminal in Spain have?

How does humour in the novel balance with the serious topics discussed, including crime and violence?

## Themed reading

Don DeLillo *Point Omega*  
Saul Bellow *Humboldt's Gift*  
John Banville *The Books of Evidence*  
Anne Enright *The Green Road*

## Useful links

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/jun/22/night-boat-tangier-kevin-barry-review>

<https://www.newstatesman.com/culture/books/2019/07/no-country-old-men-kevin-barry-s-night-boat-tangier>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/reviews/night-boat-to-tangier-kevin-barry-review-books-a8965561.html>

<https://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/books/night-boat-to-tangier-by-kevin-barry-review-a4182386.html>

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/arts-ents/17716980.review-night-boat-to-tangier-by-kevin-barry/>