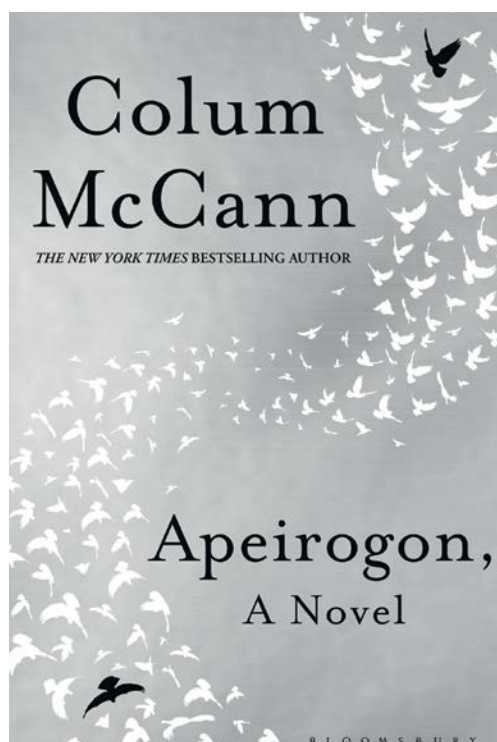




Readers' Guide



Apeiogon Colum McCann

Bloomsbury Publishing

Other novels by Colum McCann

Songdogs (1995)

This Side of Brightness (1998)

Everything in This Country Must (2003)

Dancer (2003)

Zoli (2006)

Let the Great World Spin (2009)

TransAtlantic (2013)

Thirteen Ways of Looking (2015)

Letters to a Young Writer (2017)

thebookerprizes.com

About the author

Colum McCann was born in Dublin, Ireland in February 1965. He is the author of six novels and three collections of stories. His most recent novel, *TransAtlantic*, was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2013, and his previous novel, *Let the Great World Spin*, won the National Book Award, the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award and was a *New York Times* bestseller. His work has been published in 40 languages and has received international honours, including a Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres, election to the Irish Arts Academy and the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the 2010 Best Foreign Novel Award in China and an Oscar nomination. He is the co-founder of the non-profit global story exchange organisation, Narrative 4, and he teaches at the MFA program in Hunter College. He lives in New York.

About the book

Rami Elhanan and Bassam Aramin live near one another – yet they exist worlds apart. Rami is Israeli. Bassam is Palestinian. Rami's license plate is yellow. Bassam's license plate is green. It takes Rami fifteen minutes to drive to the West Bank. The same journey for Bassam takes an hour and a half.

Both men have lost their daughters. Rami's thirteen-year-old girl Smadar was killed by a suicide bomber while out shopping with her friends. Bassam's ten-year-old daughter Abir was shot and killed by a member of the border police outside her school. The men become the best of friends.

In this epic novel – named for a shape with a countably infinite number of sides – Colum McCann crosses centuries and continents, stitching time, art, history, nature and politics into a tapestry of friendship, love, loss and belonging.

What the judges said

'*Apeirogon* is both a gripping novel about two bereaved parents and a moving reflection on what it might mean to make peace between two warring sides.'

Discussion points

The novel focuses on the conflict in the Middle East. How much did you know about this before reading *Apeirogon*? Did you find anything surprising or shocking?

Why do you think the author chose to use the structure of 1001 chapters, some extremely short?

What does the novel show about human connections and relationships during conflict and times of emotional pain?

How did you feel reading about the grief of these two fathers?

Do you think the title *Apeirogon* is apt for this novel?

Themed reading

Judas by Amos Oz

To the End of the Land by David Grossman

Khirbet Khizeh by S. Yizhar

Wild Thorns by Sahar Khalifeh

The Lady from Tel Aviv by Rabai al-Madhoun

Useful links

<http://colummccann.com/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/feb/24/apeirogon-a-novel-by-colum-mccann-book-review>

<https://www.newstatesman.com/column-mcann-apeirogon-review>

<https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/also-about-birds-the-israeli-palestinian-conflict-in-colum-mccanns-apeirogon/>

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