

# Contents

Introduction	<i>page</i> 13
<i>Thomas McCarthy</i>	
from <i>The First Convention</i>	
Stranger, Husband	33
State Funeral	33
Last Days in the Party	34
Daedalus, the Maker	35
The Rarest Thyme	36
Greatrakes, the Healer	36
from <i>The Sorrow Garden</i>	
De Valera, Lindberg and Mr Cooper's Book of Poems	37
The Sorrow Garden	38
A Neutral State, 1944	40
The Phenomenology of Stones	41
from <i>The Non-Aligned Storyteller</i>	
Claud Cockburn	41
Shopkeepers at the Party Meeting	43
Party Shrine	43
The Chairman's Widow	44
The President's Men	45
Question Time	45
Windows	46
Winter	46
Particulars	46
Hours Ago, 1973	47
Mr Nabokov's Memory	48
<i>New Poems</i>	
The Canadian Diplomat, 1942	49
Seven Orange Tulips	50
The Dying Synagogue at South Terrace	51
The Gathering of Waves	52

*The Inherited Boundaries*

*Aidan Carl Mathews*

from <i>Windfalls</i>	
Cave-painter	54
Process	54
To a Child	55
Perspectives	56
Chronicle	57
Returning to Kilcoole	57
from <i>Minding Ruth</i>	
A Landing	58
At the Wailing Wall	59
Spectrum	60
The River's Elegy	61
Minding Ruth	62
Elegy for a Five Year Old	64
Letter Following	64
Keeping Pacific Time	65
Two Months Married	66
Passages	67
Descartes at Daybreak	68
Interiors	69
from <i>The Small Hours</i>	
How Words Meet to Make a Poem	70
Handbook for Revolutionaries	71
Lawrence O'Toole	72
Caedmon	74
Adam's Commentary after the Fall	75

*Harry Clifton*

from <i>The Walls of Carthage</i>	
The Walls of Carthage	78
Blue	79
Morning	80
In Whom We Trust	81
Picaro	82

## Contents

Strange Filth	83
Upstairs Child	83
<i>from Office of the Salt Merchant</i>	
The Niger Ferry	84
Plague and Hospice	85
Government Quarters	86
Latitude 5°N	87
Trial Marriage	88
Loneliness in the Tropics	89
<i>from Comparative Lives</i>	
Death of Thomas Merton	89
Monsoon Girl	91
The Seamstress	92
Apropos of the Falling Sleet	93
Ireland	95
Sketches from Berlin	96
Droit de Seigneur	99
<i>Dermot Bolger</i>	
<i>from The Habit of Flesh</i>	
The Woman's Daughter	101
Captain of a Space Ship	103
<i>from Finglas Lilies</i>	
The Country Girl	106
Finglas Lilies	108
The Singer	110
<i>from No Waiting America</i>	
My Head Buried	111
Stardust Sequence	111
<i>from Internal Exiles</i>	
The Man Who Stepped out of Feeling	114
Amsterdam	114
The Ghosts in the Ark	115
Scarecrow	116
Frankenstein in the Markets	116

## *The Inherited Boundaries*

Bluebells for Grainne	117
1966	117
Dublin Girl, Mountjoy, 1984	118
Snuff Movies	119

### *Michael O'Loughlin*

from *Stalingrad: The Street Dictionary*

The City	121
Copenhagen Dreaming of Leningrad	122
Cuchulainn	122
Babel	123
Yellow	124
The Irish Lesson	125

from *Atlantic Blues*

The Fugitive	125
A Letter from Barcelona	127
Two Women	128
Declassé Memory	128
Venus in Concrete	130

from *The Diary of a Silence*

The Shards	131
An Irish Requiem	135
The Diary of a Silence	137
Posthumous	138
Summer in Monaghan	139
On Hearing Michael Harnett Read His Poetry in Irish	139
The Real Thing	140
In the Suburbs	141
Latin as a Foreign Language	141

### *Matthew Sweeney*

from *A Dream of Maps*

A Winter Story	144
A Dream of Maps	146
The Permanent City	146
No Welcome	148

## Contents

Last Supper	148
The Statue	149
<i>from A Round House</i>	
A Round House	150
Golf	151
The Return	151
Lili Marlene	152
Imagined Arrival	152
New Year Party	153
The Dancehall	154
The Shoplifter	155
<i>from The Lame Waltzer</i>	
Lissadell	156
The Lame Waltzer	156
Simultaneous Stories	157
Split Level	157
Sarsaparilla	158
A Scriptwriter's Discipline	159
The Night Post	160
Ends	160
Cuba Street	161
The Submerged Door	162
Entries in a Diary	162
A Surrey Morning	164
The Bats	165
<i>Sebastian Barry</i>	
<i>from The Water-Colourist</i>	
Call	167
Sketch from the Great Bull Wall	167
An Ending	168
A Seasonal Aunt	169
The Visions	169
The Return	171
Ropley District	172
The Walk	173
Two Brothers Up	174
Cassibus Impositis Venor	175

## *The Inherited Boundaries*

### *from The Rhetorical Town*

The Wounds	175
The February Town	176
The Winter Jacket	177
The Young	178
The Wrong Shoes	178
Christ-in-the-Woods	179
The Room of Rhetoric	180

### *from The Grammatical History of Everiu*

The Indian River	187
The Pardon of Assisi	188
Biography	191