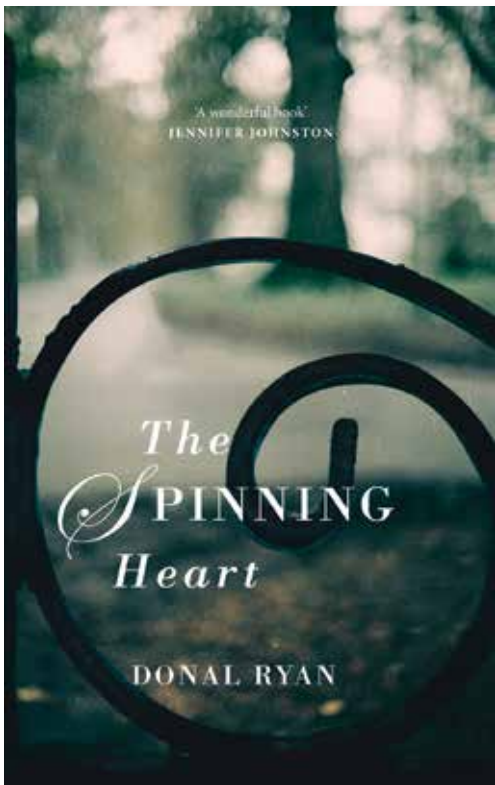




Reader's Guide



The Spinning Heart
is Donal Ryan's first novel

The Spinning Heart Donal Ryan

Doubleday Ireland

www.themanbookerprize.com



About the author

Donal Ryan was born in a village in north Tipperary in 1977. He currently lives with his wife and two children just outside Limerick City.

The Spinning Heart

In the aftermath of Ireland's financial collapse, dangerous tensions surface in an Irish town. As violence flares, the characters face a battle between public persona and inner desires. Through a chorus of unique voices, each struggling to tell their own kind of truth, a single authentic tale unfolds.

Discussion points

One of the impressive aspects of *The Spinning Heart* is the 21 different narrative voices. Were you able to distinguish between each of the voices and were they all convincing?

With so many voices did you manage to keep track of the plot?

Do you agree with the reviewer (Gemma Kappala-Ramsamy, *The Observer*) who describes Donal Ryan's writing style as perceptive, intimate and darkly comic?

Donal Ryan has been praised for not following a traditional narrative structure - it has been described as both ambitious and unconventional; how did this structure affect the reading experience, do you think it's successful?

By the end of the novel do you come to understand the individual stories, not from one perspective, but from many?

Themed reading

Anne Enright *Taking Pictures*
Patrick McCabe *The Stray Sod County*
William Faulkner *As I Lay Dying*

Useful links

[Publisher's website](http://www.transworldireland.ie/)

<http://www.transworldireland.ie/>

[Author interview](http://www.writing.ie/interviews/the-spinning-heart-by-donal-ryan/)

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