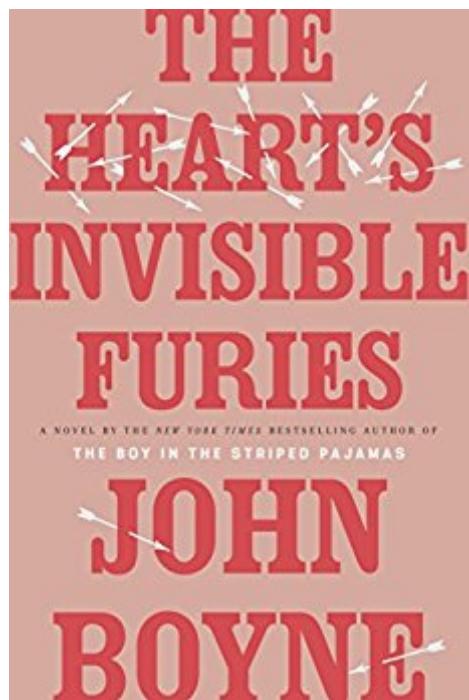


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The Heart's Invisible Furies: A Novel



Synopsis

From the beloved New York Times bestselling author of *The Boy In the Striped Pajamas*, a sweeping, heartfelt saga about the course of one man's life, beginning and ending in post-war Ireland. Cyril Avery is not a real Avery -- or at least, that's what his adoptive parents tell him. And he never will be. But if he isn't a real Avery, then who is he? Born out of wedlock to a teenage girl cast out from her rural Irish community and adopted by a well-to-do if eccentric Dublin couple via the intervention of a hunchbacked Redemptorist nun, Cyril is adrift in the world, anchored only tenuously by his heartfelt friendship with the infinitely more glamourous and dangerous Julian Woodbead. At the mercy of fortune and coincidence, he will spend a lifetime coming to know himself and where he came from - and over his many years, will struggle to discover an identity, a home, a country, and much more. In this, Boyne's most transcendent work to date, we are shown the story of Ireland from the 1940s to today through the eyes of one ordinary man. *The Heart's Invisible Furies* is a novel to make you laugh and cry while reminding us all of the redemptive power of the human spirit.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've cried occasionally at the end of movies - "The Royal Tennenbaums" is a real tearjerker for me - but I've never cried at the end of a book til I finished Irish author John Boyne's "The Heart's Invisible Furies". Sobs galore as I ended a book magnificent in it's humanity. Set in Dublin, Amsterdam, and NYC, it's the life story - told in the first person - of Cyril Avery, born illegitimate to a determined 16 year old girl, and who is adopted by a rather peculiar set of parents. Maude and Charles Avery provide a home for their adopted son, but he seems never in their hearts or minds. But Cyril grows up, finally coming to terms with his homosexuality in an Ireland bound to the Church, where acceptance of sexual and societal non-norms is very slow to come. But society does change in Cyril's 70 or so years of life. This book just teems with sympathetic but real characters. There's not a caricature in the bunch, nor is there an overwritten sentence. John Boyne's book is long - almost 600 pages - but I read it in one 24 hour period. I'm not going to make this a long review. All I can say is to please, please read this book. Along with Edward Kelsey Moore's new novel, "The Supremes Sing the Happy Heartache Blues", John Boyne's book are the two best novels of the year. I'm hoping "The Heart's Invisible Furies" will be issued in audible as it will make a marvelous listening experience.

Ok, so I loved this book. It started out as something completely different than I thought but then I got where the author was going and wow. John Boyne's novel THE HEART'S INVISIBLE FURIES is really something that takes your breath away. A young Irish Catholic unmarried pregnant girl is kicked out of her small town church and family and shamed in the most horrific way. Prepare to rage. With next to nothing other than her unborn child, she heads to Dublin, terrified and unsure of her future. On the bus toward the big city, she makes a friend. This friend and his roommate who awaits him are in fact part of Catherine's future. Fast forward a bit, and only because I cannot tell you the bits in between, and Catherine has her baby, whom she gives up for adoption as she planned to all along. The baby boy is adopted by the oddest couple ever - such complete characters. Just wait. They never ever let their son Cyril forget that he is not really one of them. Their words. However, he is not lacking for anything, well, other than love. So it seems. As a result of living under their roof, he meets the boy who will become his future. Following yet? It's ok if you're not. I am purposely being evasive because I'll leave that to the author who has written the richest book spanning decades, doused us with massive feelings, and given us characters that will leave you wincing at their audacity and others that will make you want to hug them forever. THE HEART'S IS a finding yourself, sad, so sad, funny,

and lift you up to the highest level because humans do have the capacity to show one another the most amazing acts of kindness.

John Boyne is a wonderful storyteller. And here, he has a story to tell. At the onset, the table is set most cleverly -- in rural Cork, in 1945, 16 year old Catherine Goggins is slutshamed from the pulpit from the church and thrown out of the parish, her home, the town, and left to make her own way because of the unborn child she has within her. That this is told from the viewpoint of that child as a man many years in the future is the first clue that this will be an unusual treatment of a fairly common topic. But Boyne has other fish to fry, and this is only the beginning. That child is adopted by an unlikely couple, Maude and Charles Avery, given the name Cyril, who learns early on of his attraction to men, and finds himself living in a society that will not tolerate this, and at various times of his life, deals with it without losing his sense of worth. Boyne's subtle vehicle for explaining the Irish attitudes and misconceptions about being gay are presented throughout the book via conversations with other clueless characters, some of which boggle the mind in their ignorance. One such exchange near the end of the book is particularly hilarious. Of course Ireland was not alone in this (there are other horrific events in other countries), but the overreaching influence of the priests and the church was paramount in the outcome of Cyril's fate. So, in the final reckoning, this really is about a coming of age, but instead of for a man, for a country, for Ireland. Totally immersive for its nearly 600 pages, this book is very highly recommended.

My favourite book this year. I really enjoyed it so much that I was sad to finish it. The writing style was unusual, but I really liked it. Have recommended it to other people who all loved it too. Definitely worth a read.

Absolutely Magnificent! It is difficult to avoid hyperbole when reviewing this book. I have long admired John Boyne's books and I have read all but two of them. When I learned of this book I was disappointed to find that it will not be released in the United States until later this year. So I sent for it from Ireland! I am glad I did. This is, so far and by far, my favorite of his books. I just finished it yesterday so I am still processing it mentally. Of course it is beautifully written, filled with humor and pathos, and it is difficult to put down once you start reading. As a gay man I especially enjoyed the protagonist's story. However, if you are not gay, don't be put off. It is truly human, truly compassionate, and anyone who loves fine writing will find something here. Don't wait until this Fall; send for it now! You can get it through .com.uk. You won't regret it!

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