

SHIBBY MAGEE

An Irish Tragicomedy

Feature Film or Limited Series



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New Release
Sibling
Relationships

TOP 50

BESTSELLER
Sibling
Relationships

#7

New Release
British & Irish
Literary Fiction

TOP 50

BESTSELLER
Contemporary
British & Irish
Literature

READERS' FAVORITE
INTERNATIONAL
BOOK AWARD

Honorable Mention Award
FOR CULTURAL FICTION

PUBLISHERS
WEEKLY

Featured in
Monthly Spotlight

TOP 100

Audiobook
BESTSELLER
European
Literature



A vanished mother. A fractured family. A lifetime of choosing the wrong men.

When their bold, brassy mother disappears into Ireland's Traveller community, Shibby Magee and her twin sister, Dorah, are left behind in a family already cracking at the seams.

Under the iron rule of their rigidly bigoted grandmother, Dorah grows sharp-edged and defiant; Shibby, bruised and unmoored.

As an adult, desperate for love, Shibby is drawn to men who wound and discard her, caught in patterns she can't yet see.

She finds a measure of stability in the chaos of a restaurant kitchen—but a question persists: is her future in the settled world, or on the open road to God only knows where?

Throughout, Shibby's life is colored by an unforgettable cast of characters: Benny, her emotionally distant father; Alice Duffy, the housekeeper and surrogate mother; Moochie de Barra, Benny's sidekick; and Kitty Dooley, who embodies the fierce pride and harsh realities of Traveller life.

Set across the roads, towns, villages, and rugged coastlines of western Ireland—from Roscommon and Galway to a remote Atlantic island, the story traces how early abandonment echoes into midlife, revealing what endures, what shifts, and how the cycle repeats until it finally breaks.

Screen Potential

- Character-driven prestige drama
- Distinctive story world on the edge of Ireland's Traveller/Mincéir community
- Dark humor fused with emotional realism
- Multigenerational family fracture and identity themes
- Visually dynamic workplace and kitchen sequences
- Strong visual contrasts: island, rural, and urban Ireland
- Female-centered narrative with vivid supporting characters

Tone & Comparables

In the literary tradition of *The Bee Sting* by Paul Murray, *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan, *The Queen of Dirt Island* by Donal Ryan, and *Trespasses* by Louise Kennedy, with the tonal blend of *Bad Sisters*, *Fleabag*, *The Banshees of Inisherin*, and *Brooklyn*.

Carrie Kabak follows the indelible, indefatigable Shibby Magee during two crucial years in her life, one in girlhood and then another at midlife womanhood, as she struggles against prejudice, cruelty, and abandonment in her search to find her true place in an increasingly confounding world, be it in a bustling restaurant—or on the road as an Irish Traveller in an extraordinary, wily community I'd never heard of before and was delighted to encounter.

—Caroline Leavitt, *New York Times* bestselling author

With its brilliant sense of time, place, and setting, and its depiction of prejudiced small-town attitudes towards the Traveller community and homosexuality, this is a novel examining the real meaning of family and love. Lyrical, well observed, and darkly funny, it explores the issues of cultural identity, abandonment, and self acceptance.

—Helen Towers, *Borderlines Book Festival* programmer

Carrie Kabak is also the author of *Cover the Butter*, published by Penguin Random House, an Independent Book-sellers' Pick, AudioFile Magazine Earphones Award winner, and Quill Award nominee. Her work has appeared in multiple anthologies, including those published by Simon & Schuster, Atria Books, She Writes Press, Seal Press, and North Atlantic Books. Upcoming titles: *Mali Morgan's Summer* and *Every Mole and Freckle*.

