



Oh My God, What a Complete Aisling: Just a Small-Town Girl Living in a Notions World

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Aisling is twenty-eight and she's a complete ... Aisling. She lives at home in Ballygobbard (or Ballygobackwards, as some gas tickets call it) with her parents and commutes to her good job at PensionsPlus in Dublin.

Aisling goes out every Saturday night with her best friend Majella, who is a bit of a hames (she's lost two phones already this year – Aisling has never lost a phone).

Aisling spends two nights a week at her boyfriend John's. He's from down home and was kiss number seventeen at her twenty-first.

But Aisling wants more. She wants the ring on her finger. She wants the hen with the willy straws. She wants out of her parents' house, although she'd miss Mammy turning on the electric blanket like clockwork and Daddy taking her car 'out for a spin' and bringing it back full of petrol.

When a week in Tenerife with John doesn't end with the expected engagement, Aisling calls a halt to things and soon she has surprised herself and everyone else by agreeing to move into a three-bed in Portobello with stylish Sadhbh from HR and her friend, the mysterious Elaine.

Newly single and relocated to the big city, life is about to change utterly for this wonderful, strong, surprising and funny girl, who just happens to be a complete Aisling.

Emer McLysaght and Sarah Breen, the creators of the much-loved Aisling character and the popular Facebook page 'Oh My God, What a Complete Aisling', bring Aisling to life in their novel about the quintessential country girl in the big smoke.

Oh My God, What a Complete Aisling: Just a Small-Town Girl Living in a Notions World Details

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From Reader Review Oh My God, What a Complete Aisling: Just a Small-Town Girl Living in a Notions World for online ebook

Trish at Between My Lines says

Fun read

I thought this would be a light hearted fun read. And it's got fun nailed down, but it's also more emotional than I expected it to be. Loved it.

Eva says

Aisling is at that age where all around her people are getting married. Surely she's next. After all, she and her boyfriend John have been together for seven years. When a romantic getaway turns into a disaster, Aisling decides it's time to move on. Leaving John behind, she moves from her tiny village to the bright lights of Dublin.

I must say this didn't at all turn out the way I expected it to. Yes, there are some funny and chuckle-worthy moments, but there were also some really rather moving and sad emotional bits. Myself not being Irish, I think there may have been a few references that went completely over my head but that didn't ruin my enjoyment at all. If anything, it's rather refreshing and the story wouldn't at all be the same without some Irish mixed in.

Aisling is the type of girl that captures your heart right from the start and I thought she was a true delight. It was quite easy imagining myself sitting down somewhere with a cup of coffee and a piece of cake and have Aisling tell me all about her family, flatmates, colleagues and friends. This story is full of witty observations and descriptions, from the excitement of an Aldi store to being stuck in the loo when other women are obviously talking about you.

So maybe a few things were slightly over the top, some a tad stereotypical and some a bit predictable, but it really didn't matter. This is just one of those stories where you go with the flow, don't overthink things and let the wonderfulness that is Aisling fill your heart with joy. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting her, her family and her friends and I'm quietly hoping that maybe there may be a sequel some day. I have no doubt Aisling has many more stories to tell!

A fun, light, heartwarming and entertaining novel, perfect for those summer days!

Grace J Reviewerlady says

I've always had a soft spot for Irish authors who write the type of books which are funny and sad at the same time. I swear I read them in an Irish accent in my head as they're not nearly as good in my native Scots!

Aisling (which, thanks to a long ago read Maeve Binchy novel I actually know how to pronounce) is a gas, a scream, a hoot and fiercely funny - to everyone else. Desperate for her boyfriend of seven years to propose,

she finds herself in the unfortunate position of being in a toilet cubicle at yet another friend's wedding listening to two of the guests from her table chatting about her little idiosyncrasies. From that conversation we learn an awful lot about the type of woman Aisling is, and as we get in further it's revealed that she is also a good daughter to her parents, travelling up and down to her job in Dublin since her father was ill, although he's recovered now. She works hard and plays hard and thinks her future is settled with boyfriend John .. only, somehow, the magic proposal just hasn't materialised.

This is such a great read. With plenty going on both in Dublin and at home in the country, there isn't a single moment of boredom. It's action packed all the way. and the hangovers are epic. I've smiled and giggled my way through, empathised with Aisling so many times and yes, shed a tear or two with her as well. Never having come across the name Sadhbh before, I did have to resort to googling it - I can't bear to think I'm getting it wrong. There is a good mix of the old ways of Ireland and the new wave of change, and it all adds up to a sparkling read.

More than anything, this stands out as being the kind of story which is entirely believable. The characters are appealing and so entertaining, but the star of the show is, without a doubt, Aisling. If you have read any of the Irish writers who consistently pack the bestseller lists, then you will enjoy this one because that's exactly where it belongs. The authors have done a great job of creating a cracking novel and I hope they write more together, as I absolutely loved this one and fully recommend it.

My thanks to publishers Penguin UK - Michael Joseph, for pre-approving my copy via NetGalley. This is my honest, original and unbiased review.

Trish says

I've long since disentangled myself from the Facebook group, because it's just too much, but the original sharp character observations are here in spades. My main problem with this book is that it doesn't stick to its guns and remain a PG Wodehouse-esque caper full of improbable but hilarious character sketches and unlikely hijinks, but instead takes a left turn into SERIOUS THEMES and ends up in the weeds.

The punctuation style is really weird as well. Who hyphenates "street-light" but not "small town girl"? FFS, etc.

Laura says

Book reviews on www.snazzybooks.com

Fun, entertaining and, at times, a bit emotional, Oh My God, What a Complete Aisling is a fast-paced, funny read which I really didn't want to put down!

The word 'Aisling' seems to be a term originally coined in an Irish Facebook group set up by Emer and Sarah, which has amassed many members who discuss the things they've noticed and observed about a certain type of Irish girl, known as an 'Aisling'. I didn't know this before I read the novel, so it's not essential information, but I found it interesting that Aisling is a (seemingly fond, not cruel) term for a certain type of girl - and what an amusing character this novel's Aisling is!

Oh My God, What a Complete Aisling made me smile and laugh, and though she's odd in many ways, I really warmed to Aisling - seeing the world through her eyes is so entertaining, and left me hugely amused. Her observations on other people and their habits are brilliant. Some parts are ridiculous but that's all part of the fun, and there are some much more serious moments too - it's not all light and fluffy.

I wish there were more pages to this novel so I could spend more time with her (Emer and Sarah, write a second book asap please!). Definitely recommended.

* Many thanks to Penguin for providing a copy of this novel on which I chose to write an honest and unbiased review, and for inviting me onto the blog tour. *

Orla says

"Leds, leds, did you hear? The two wans behind the OMGWACA Facebook group are only after going and writing a bewk!"

"Ah, jaysus, did they? Is it any good or is it pure #notions?"

"It's feckin' faboo. Hilair and smart as a pair of them fancy red-soled shoes (Louboutins, would you be well?) they wear in the posh mags. Bits of it would shred the heart out of you too, mind."

"Should I read it, so?"

"Yeah, but, like, stock up on the nice tissues - the balsamy ones - sure I was a mess of tears and snot and giggles all the way through it."

"I will, so."

"Grand. And text me when you've finished it. We'll meet up for a cup of tea and the chats."

"Grand."

For anyone who hasn't been inducted into the wonderful world of OMGWACA (I am eternally grateful to my sister for bringing me into the fold), it's an Irish Facebook group with over (checks Facebook) 42 thousand members. It started when two college friends (from Carlow and Kildare) decided to share their observations about a certain type of Irish country girl with a wider audience. Over time, the cast of characters grew, and their audience did too. It became invitation-only a few years ago, to keep the bowsies out and preserve the feel of the group.

One of the most remarkable things about OMGWACA is that there isn't so much as a tiny bit of meanness in it. It's an affectionate, knowing, gentle ribbing of Irishness of a certain stripe. Or many stripes, considering the current size of the Dramatis Personae. It's where we flock to share the bizarre minutiae of Irish life, the sort of things we know others in the group will relate to (Christmas on OMGWACA is a hilarious shared experience), it's also become a place where other writers have honed their craft, and journalists snake in to steal the odd choice cut (and are rightly pilloried for it).

At the moment, the page is bubbling over with excitement about the book, with Aislings, NFATRs and Majellas galore (and yes, the GJs, Mad Toms, and Australia Pauls too) sharing their joy at there (a) being a book and (b) the book being a wonderful read. Not a wet blanket or a tall-poppy-cutter-downer to be seen, as is only right and proper. It's rare too, in this cynical age.

Despite what the edition says, I bought a physical copy. Tore through it in one sitting and confused the living daylight out of my cat (that feckin' cat) by alternating between gales of laughter, sniffles and (at one point) full-blown sobs. It's sweet and kind, funny and heart-rending, personal and political. It's a grand read,

altogether (said with typical Irish understatement), and you could do a lot worse than planning for an evening curled up on the couch with it, the good biscuits and a pot of good strong tea (or coffee, if you're like me and have caffeinated-beverage-notions).

Michelle Ryles says

Beware: you will laugh out loud whilst reading *Oh My God, What a Complete Aisling*. I tittered, chortled and guffawed all of the way through it but there are some serious notes which makes it scarily true to life. So (to quote Monty Python) even though this book makes you look on the bright side of life, it reminds us that sometimes life is a piece of shit, when you look at it...

Aisling is the friend we all wish we had; she's the sensible one when we go out and always makes sure that we get back home safely and she's the one to go to for money saving tips and best deals. You might think everything is rosy for Aisling: she is in a long term relationship with her boyfriend, John, but even Aisling is starting to wonder when one of the weddings she goes to will be her own. John seems happy to coast along but Aisling wouldn't be Aisling if she didn't question John's intentions, only for it to backfire and she finds herself single again after 7 years. The dating game is a minefield for any normal person, imagine what it's like for a complete Aisling!

This book is written with such a huge amount of warm, Irish wit that it is so easy to immerse yourself in Aisling's life and you quickly feel like you have become one of the family. I loved visiting Mammy and Daddy and almost choked with laughter when Mammy got her words wrong - I'll never be able to look at a butternut squash again without tears of laughter running down my face.

I think we have a little bit of Aisling in all of us so it's really easy to identify with her. I found myself getting quite emotional in some of the lifelike, sobering scenes but it wasn't long before I found myself laughing again. Emer McLysaght and Sarah Breen need to bottle Aisling and prescribe her in place of anti-depressants; I can't imagine anyone reading it without a smile on their face.

Oh My God, What a Complete Aisling is an enchanting and vibrant laugh out loud book and I hope that there are many more Aisling novels to follow.

I chose to read an ARC and this is my honest and unbiased opinion.

Shirley Revill says

Although I really love the sound of an Irish voice the narrator's voice on the audiobook was just not for me. It was like listening to someone trying to break a world record for speed and I honestly don't know how she had time to breathe.

This is probably is a really interesting story but the audiobook did nothing for me at all.

I will probably read the book version of the story because I believe it has some very good reviews.

Elizabeth says

It is funny. Plot is brutal, predictable and zero excitement. Interesting how it became a book from a Facebook Page, prob would have been best a short story.

Emer says

Oh my god what a complete waste of my time... A book with too many lame duck attempts at wit and frivolity as it attempted to cram at least half a dozen modern Irish cultural references on to each page. Clearly a book with no understanding of the old 'less is more' adage. The plot was entirely weak, character development non-existent. Nothing but caricature after caricature instead of three dimensional creations that a reader could really get invested in. At the risk of sounding like a book snob to me this is a book designed for a specific market; that of mass market popularity focusing primarily on non- or infrequent readers with its seemingly endlessly repetitive quips and painfully basic prose. The perfect example of disposable holiday fiction. It is also not a book that would travel well as too many of the references and style of language are uniquely modern day Irish. Hands up if you've no Irish connection and you can tell me who either Paul Galvin or Mary Kennedy are. Or maybe Coppers or Nationwide?

Puerile and utterly forgetful fiction.

one star

PS Thanks to Santa for giving me this as a Christmas present. Even though I pretty much hated it I love getting books as gifts ?

Alison says

DNF at an embarrassingly small percentage, less than 10%.

I don't know why I requested this book TBH. I was sort of intrigued, then thought better of it and didn't download the book, then my obsessive need to complete finish tasks made me download the book anyway.

This book is full on Irish dialogue right from the get go, I honestly had to read the opening sentence three times before I understood what it meant. I still don't actually know what 'being a gas' actually means - is it funny?

Aisling, of the title, is a 28 year old Irish woman with a long-term boyfriend (seven years) who seems to have no intention of proposing anytime soon, despite the fact that his team mates are inviting them to engagement parties and weddings at increasingly regular intervals. Aisling seems to be one of those curvaceous, middle-aged before her time Irish girls whose only dream is the house that their Daddy will build them once they get married. She also appears to be the annoying office busybody who leaves passive-aggressive notes for their co-workers about the fridge and the dishwasher. She can't bear the idea of a buffet breakfast going uneaten, even if it means going to breakfast two minutes after waking up.

I'll be honest, I hated every page that I read, I didn't like Aisling, I'm not keen on books which are full of brogue (it's one of the reasons I never read Scottish historical romances - hate all the och aye rubbish) and this just hit every one of my triggers.

I can't tell you about the plot because I didn't read enough to know what the plot was about -although I was already concerned about her father's appearance - my apologies.

I received a free copy of this book from the publisher via NetGalley in return for an honest review.

Sharon says

Aisling is a small-town country girl who loves her Daddy, a good hotel breakfast, jeans and a nice top, and her boyfriend of seven years, John.

When there's still no sign of the elusive engagement ring, Ais worries that she's never going to have her own Big Day - so she decides it's time for a change. With the help of Majella, her friend from back home, and Sadhbh, her always-glam city office colleague, Aisling is about to realise what friendship really means and what's really important to her.

I had seen loads of my friends on Facebook join a page called "Oh My God What a Complete Aisling" (lovingly referred to as OMGWACA) over the past few years. Never entirely sure when it comes to Facebook, I assumed it was a jokey page for people called Aisling. I joined considerably later than everyone else, about a year and a half ago, and was immediately confused. Talk of a Dramatis Personae, and Generic John left me baffled - until I realised that I did indeed marry a Mad Tom, I'm turning into an utter Memmeh myself, and I know a hell of a lot of Aislings. I wasn't sure what direction this book would take - but Sarah and Emer have taken their original concept, and written a heartwarming, lovely story about a girl we can all relate to on some level.

It's a really sweet book, an ideal one to read over the Christmas holidays, just be prepared for a lot of emotion. Let's hope Memmeh bought the good balmy tissues, not the ones that'll take your nose off.

Paromjit says

I completely adored this highly entertaining and comic look at the Irish cultural phenomena that is being an Aisling. She is brought to life here by the authors, a novel that has its origins in a Facebook page that documented and captured the varied traits attributed to an Aisling. I should warn readers that the book has numerous Irish words and references, but these can be looked up, and certain reviewers explain many of these. Our Aisling is 28 years old, is best friends with Majella, has been going out with John for seven years and is getting antsy about the fact that John has yet to propose. It begins with the wedding of Liam and Denise, and Aisling reflects on how so many women she knows have achieved the status of wife, and even motherhood, the normal expectations of a woman in the small rural community of Ballygobbard. On pushing John about their expected marriage, she is alarmed at his response that it is unlikely to be anytime soon. She organises a break to Tenerife for the two of them, clinging to the fantasy that he will propose, only on their

return she breaks up with him.

Aisling commutes to work in Dublin at PensionsPlus and enjoys the comforts of living with her parents, who coddle and support her. Feeling her life needs a radical overhaul, she moves in with HR work colleague, Sadhbh and her intriguing flatmate, Elaine, in a plush penthouse in Dublin. Aisling soon begins to feel at home with her new close friends and their luxurious lifestyle. It is a culture shock for the small town girl as she willingly joins their never ending rose wine and champagne drinking, the world of celebrities, new places to go out, their strange sense of fashion and ideas of cool, veganism and avocado diets. Sadhbh and Elaine open their hearts to the fragile Aisling, enveloping her into their warmth and care, always there for her when her life faces family crises and the neverending tears and hurt as she struggles to get over John. Her one attempt at dating married Barry from work is curtailed when she bumps into Piotr and becomes a sobbing mess when she becomes aware that John is seeing someone else. As family tragedy strikes and Aisling learns of family secrets, she is determined to support Sadhbh in her personal woes and troubles.

I love the way Aisling has her horizons broadened and her thinking pushed into different directions when her personal relationship falls apart. The humour and comic touches in the story are contagious and had me laughing, this novel is really good craic! The narrative begins and ends with a wedding, but we can see a different Aisling from the first wedding. She comes to appreciate that she might want different things in life than the old Aisling and can finally appreciate the viewpoint of her ex-boyfriend. I loved the way she embraced her new friends and their lifestyle, even when she was deeply uncomfortable with it, as at a techno disco on a Berlin city break. A brilliant read for those times you need something light and frothy, with great characters, and comic fun. Highly recommended! Many thanks to Penguin Michael Joseph for an ARC.

Bookread2day says

Every now and then a lovely funny book comes along. I love to know what's behind the beginning of a book and how it became an idea then into the final making and selling of the book. I was fascinated to read that Emmer McLysaght and Sarah Breen conceived the character of Aisling in their sitting room in 2008, when they began to observe the many traits, characteristics and quirks of a particular type of Irish girl, one they identified around them and one they identified with. Oh My God, What a Complete Aisling was an instant sensation in their native Ireland and the Number One best selling adult fiction title of 2017.

Jacqueline says

More chick-lit than I usually read, I adored the sharply observed characters and the whimsy in this. I was smiling and chuckling away for the most part. It also made me cry.

I'm not Irish, never even been to Ireland so my entire experience of Irish families is based on reading Marian Keyes. This reminded me of her stories, with the family and the humour particularly, but the bite of bittersweet also reminded me of her books.

Aisling is apparently typical of an Irish country gal, preoccupied with getting her future settled but her chap, John, isn't on the same page and he's happy as they are. So Aisling embarks on something of a life-changing experience, still donning her anorak and holding into her good sense.

There's a theme of romance in this, but it's not a romantic story, more a coming of age story which disappointed me a bit if I'm honest. The end kind of came up from nowhere and ends were left loose which isn't my thing, but still, a good read.

Recommended for fans of Marian Keyes and Ciara Geraghty.

I received a review copy from The publisher via NetGalley.
