**Say Nothing: Irish Cultural Center**

**A True Story of Murder and Memory McClelland Library**

**in Northern Ireland/ Saturday, March 27, 2001**

**Patrick Radden Keefe 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM**

**ZOOM**

“All wars are fought twice, the first time on the battlefield, the second time in memory.”

Viet Thanh Nguyen

Patrick Radden Keefe is an American journalist of Irish-American ancestry. He is a staff writer for the **New Yorker.** He became interested in this subject when he read Dolours Price’s obituary in 2013. This book has been seen as true crime, history, and tragedy.

Among the main sources for the author are the Boston College tapes. These were interviews done with participants from the IRA and the Loyalist paramilitaries. They participated with the understanding that the tapes would not be made public until after their deaths. Boston College turned over the tapes in response to a subpoena from the U.S, Department of Justice after an official request from the PSNI (Police Service of Northern Ireland).

Keefe has said that he was looking for characters, not just subjects. Which of the main characters did you feel you had a better in depth understanding of at the end? This does mean the one you were most sympathetic to.

He has also said that he was interested in the moral underpinnings of the major people involved. Consider the moral underpinnings of Dolours Price, Marian Price, Brendan Hughes, Gerry Adams.

The kidnapping and disappearance of Jean McConville is used as an entrance into the Troubles in Northern Ireland in the time before the Good Friday Agreement. Does this make it more personal than a straight history? Can you think of other books/movies that that made war more personal to you?

What did you learn about the Troubles in Northern Ireland from reading this book?  What larger issues do you see in a country, province, or state that favors one group over another group?  What dangers?

If you were familiar with any of the characters, did this book change your opinion of them? Did the book deepen or add to your understanding of the Troubles?

The subtitle of *Say Nothing* calls the account "a true story."  Think about the narrative devices that Keefe shares with novelists.  How do they influence the reader's reaction to the people and events?