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| Eclipsed  By  Patricia Burke Brogan  (Published in 1991. First performed in 1992 at Galway’s Punchbag Theatre. The play has won many awards and has been produced in many countries around the world.) | The Irish Book Club is a program of the McClelland Library at the Irish Cultural Center.  February 26, 2022  10:30 AM – 12:30 PM  Guide is on Book Discussion page at the Irish Cultural website (azirirsh.org). Zoom link sent to registered emails.  We plan to send a reminder during the week before the discussion. This should contain the Zoom link. |

Guide:

Note on Plays: Plays require very active readers. You must discern place, time, circumstances, and states of mind from the speeches of the characters. Much important information is lodged in the stage directions provided to the actors and the director. This visual art form demands that audiences participate in the play by reacting to what is seen on stage. As you read the play, let your imagination visualize the action.

► Think about the following aspects of the drama:

* --the use of music in the play
* --the possibility that lyrics reflect the lives of the characters
* --why is Elvis a central singer?
* --the ripping down of the curtains in Act I, scene: Is this simply for dramatic effect or does it have more significant meaning?
* --examples of comic relief in the play

► Of what significance is the title?

► Explain the function of each character in the play. Who is your favorite?

► Compare and contrast this play with *Pull of the Stars*, read for January.

►► Looking Ahead: Selection for March 26 is Secrets Never Told by Dermot Bolger. Mr Bolger will be our guest via Zoom.

► Related avenues of information:

* Kearney, Eileen, and Charlotte Headrick, eds. Irish Women Dramatists 1908-2001. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse UP, 2014. (Contains a copy of the play.)
* Hogan, Caelainn. Republic of Shame. Penguin, 2019. (This is probably the most recent discussion of Magdalene laundries and homes for women and babies.)
* If you have time, use your search engine to find YouTube segments about this play.