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| ***I Am, I Am, I Am: Seventeen Brushes with Death***  ***(2017)***  By  Maggie O’Farrell  (b. 1972 in Coleraine, NI) | Irish Book Club Discussion  Irish Cultural Center  March 23, 2024  10:30 AM – 12:30 PM  Norton Room  McClelland Library  Irish Cultural Center |

**Discussion Guide**

Maggie O’Farrell’s memoir is one among her growing list of creative works. Other works include Instructions for a Heatwave (2013), The Marriage Portrait (2022), and Hamnet (2020). Among her awards are a Somerset Maugham and a Costa Book. She was born in Northern Ireland and now lives in London.

Examine the table of contents and analyze your initial impressions concerning the contents of this memoir.

Select one of the “brushes with death” to analyze. What did you like about the subject? The writing? Why did you select this as a favorite?

Although these are “brushes with death,” do they also tell us something about life and living?

Consider the order of the brushes and the writer’s telling of these experiences. Does this affect your reaction to the memoir? To what extent is gender a factor?

Did you like O’Farrell’s memoir? How does it compare with others you have read (other memoirs or other books by the author)? Does her work reinforce your impressions of Irish literature?

LOOKING AHEAD: In April, our subject will be The Queen of Dirt Island (2023) by Donal Ryan. The Guide will be on the website early in April.