

The Ghosts of Rome
(2025)
by
Joseph O'Connor

Irish Cultural Center
Book Group
Saturday, October 25, 2025
10:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Norton Room

Joseph O'Connor (born 9/20/1963) is a popular Irish novelist, playwright, and broadcaster. The eldest of five children, he is often remembered as the brother of Sinéad O'Connor. He was raised in south Dublin and educated at Blackrock College and University College Dublin. He is the author of 18 books. **The Ghosts of Rome** is the second in a proposed trilogy. Among his works are **Cowboys and Indians** (1991), **Star of the Sea** (2002), and **Shadowplay** (2019).

Discussion Questions:

- Share your insights on (a) the significance of the title, and (b) the layout of the novel and (c) the themes.
- You met many of the characters in **My Father's House**. Have they changed in this latest novel? If so, how?
- The author carefully notes the times and places of the segments of narrative. Much takes place during 1944, the last year of the war in Italy, but we also move forward to 1962 and even return to Ireland after the war. Why do you think O'Connor explores these different time periods?
- How does the author build suspense in this novel? Share some of your favorite (scariest?) moments.
- What important aspects did I overlook in this novel?
- Did you enjoy reading **The Ghosts of Rome**? Do you look forward to the third novel in the trilogy when it is published?

Looking forward→→→The November/December selection is non-fiction: **We Don't Know Ourselves** by Fintan O'Toole. Check the website for date and time.