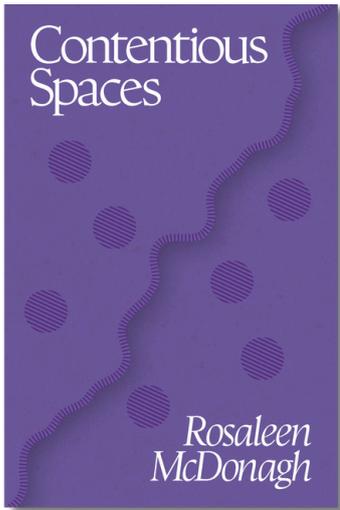


Contentious Spaces

Rosaleen McDonagh



**Spring 2026
Fiction**

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The Traveller families who live in Saint Rita's are on borrowed time. In just a week they will be evicted by the local council, threatening not only their homes but also their history and the stories that have shaped them. Charlene, a proud young beoir suffers a humiliating betrayal. Her mother, Kate, is left to navigate unbearable loss while holding the family together. Her cousin, Sheena, strives to find her place in a new environment that is quick to dismiss her. Her uncle Tommy fights despair as his teenage son spirals out of control.

As eviction day draws closer, the families struggle to preserve their dignity, finding strength in one another as they navigate an unknown future. Unflinching, *Contentious Spaces* is a haunting story about identity and loyalty, shame and resilience, grief and love, and the defiant power of voices that refuse to be silenced.

Rosaleen McDonagh is a writer, playwright, performer, columnist for *The Irish Times* and a member of Aosdána. Her plays include *The Baby Doll Project*, *She's Not Mine*, *Rings*, *The Prettiest Proud Boy* and *Mainstream*. She is the author of *Unsettled* (Skein Press, 2021), which was a finalist for the Michel Déon Prize, Dalkey Literary Award and AnPost Irish Book Awards. Rosaleen holds a BA, two MPhils from Trinity College Dublin and a PhD from Northumbria University. She is a board member of Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre and was appointed a Human Rights Commissioner in June 2020.

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Powerful characters exploring universal themes such as the impact of suicide, precarious living circumstances, racism and the strength of culture and family ties.
- The first of its kind, a fictional work featuring characters from the Traveller community and exploring their inner lives.
- Contemporary storytelling from an award-listed author.

'A beautiful and disturbing book on the reality of so many Travellers' lives. The humanity and the dignity of the characters in spite of their struggles shone through, and this, I believe, is a true reflection of most Travellers I know.'

– Anne Burke