



Spill Simmer Falter Wither

By Sara Baume

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This captivating story follows — over the course of four seasons — a misfit man who adopts a misfit dog.

It is springtime, and two outcasts — a man ignored, even shunned by his village, and the one-eyed dog he takes into his quiet, tightly shuttered life — find each other, by accident or fate, and forge an unlikely connection. As their friendship grows, their small, seaside town suddenly takes note of them, falsely perceiving menace where there is only mishap; the unlikely duo must take to the road.

Gorgeously written in poetic and mesmerizing prose, *Spill Simmer Falter Wither* has already garnered wild support in its native Ireland, where the *Irish Times* pointed to Baume's "astonishing power with language" and praised it as "a novel bursting with brio, braggadocio and bite." It is also a moving depiction of how — over the four seasons echoed in the title — a relationship between fellow damaged creatures can bring them both comfort. One of those rare stories that utterly, completely imagines its way into a life most of us would never see, it transforms us not only in our understanding of the world, but also of ourselves.

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Spill Simmer Falter Wither By Sara Baume Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A solitary misfit opens up to his one-eyed dog in this debut novel. Ray describes himself as old (he's 57), shabbily dressed, and sketchily bearded, pitching and clomping when he walks. He first sees the dog in an animal shelter advertisement: a grisly photo of a mangled canine face. The kennel keeper says the dog attacks other dogs; its scars suggest it was used for badger hunting. Ray is familiar with abuse: his father, understanding Ray is "not right-minded," raised him in confined isolation. Ray reads, drives, and knows he's not a regular person. Following his father's death, he remains in his father's house alone until he adopts the dog he calls One Eye. When One Eye attacks another dog, incurring the owner's wrath, Ray takes One Eye on the road, traveling from one Irish village to another, sleeping in the car. By the time they return home, they have spent a year together, and their friendship is fixed. Baume's storytelling can be indirect. She never mentions Ray's name, only that he's named for a sunbeam or a sand shark. Nor does she specify Ray's impairment. As a narrator, he shows observation skills, appreciation for landscape, and awareness of fear and sadness. For One Eye, he's full of empathy. Baume's debut is notable for its rhythmic language, sensory imagery (especially visuals and smells), and second-person narrative directed at an animal. She is brutal detailing brutality, lyrical contemplating land and sea, and at her best evoking the connection between man and dog. (Mar.)

Review

Winner of the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature for 2015

Winner of the Sunday Independent Newcomer of the Year Award (Bord Gáis Energy Irish Book Awards 2015)

Short-listed for the Costa First Novel Award

Long-listed for the Desmond Elliott Prize

Long-listed for *The Guardian* First Book Award 2015, A Readers' Choice

Long-listed for the Warwick Prize for Writing 2015

Long-listed for 2015 Edinburgh First Novel Award

?Nominated for the International Dublin Literary Award 2017

One of NPR's "Best Books of 2016"

Barnes & Noble Spring 2016 Discover Great New Writers

March 2016 Indie Next Pick

2016 Winter/Spring Indies Introduce Pick

"A tour de force.... No writer since JM Coetzee or Cormac McCarthy has written about an animal with such intensity. This is a novel bursting with brio, braggadocio and bite. Again and again it wows you with its ambition...At its heart is a touching and inspiriting sense of empathy, that rarest but most human of traits. Boundaries melt, other hearts become knowable...This book is a stunning and wonderful achievement by a writer touched by greatness."—Joseph O'Connor, for *The Irish Times*

"This book is like a flame in daylight: beautiful and unexpected. It packs a big effect for something that seems so slight, and almost hard to see."—Anne Enright

"Unbearably poignant and beautifully told."—Eimear McBride, author of *A Girl is a Half-formed Thing*

"A deeply attuned portrait of the human mind...An unsettling literary surprise of the best sort. This first

novel's voice is singular in its humility and imaginative range...Baume's novel revels in aesthetic leaps and dives, embracing the poetry of sensory experience in all its baffling beauty from the title onward...Baume's prose makes sure we look and listen. Her book insists we take notice."—*The Atlantic*

"[Baume] has a way with words...As you sink into the rhythms of Baume's prose, you can almost smell the salt air and feel the sting of a small town that can be unforgiving to those who are different."—NPR, "Best Books of 2016"

"Extraordinary . . . *Spill Simmer Falter Wither* is a heartbreakingly good read, and heralds Baume as a major new talent." —*Independent on Sunday*

"A deft and moving debut...To capture this constrained setting and quiet character requires specific skills, which Baume has in spades...It's not easy to tell such a sparse tale, to be so economic with story, but the book hums with its own distinctiveness, presenting in singing prose an unforgettable landscape peopled by two unlikely Beckettian wanderers, where hope is not yet lost."—*The Guardian*

"A man-and-his-dog story like no other."—*San Francisco Chronicle*, "Recommendations from Book Passage"

"[A] lovely book...destined to become a small classic of animal communion literature."—*Wall Street Journal*

"Captivating...Rich with incident and gorgeously depicted through Baume's precise, lapidary prose...[Baume] displays wisdom beyond her years in this compassionate tale."—*BookPage*

"[Baume's] rhythmic, intimate prose abounds with startling sights, smells and sounds...[Her] sympathy for her 'wonkety' characters is infectious and their relationship – in all its drama and ordinariness – beautifully conveyed. Places and smells, plants and animals are conjured with loving attention, the narrative propelled by a striking linguistic intensity...Baume's capacity for wonder turns this portrait of an unusual friendship into a powerful meditation on humanity."—*New Statesman*

"Sara Baume is a novelist to watch."—*Daily Mail*

"Ambitious and impressive . . . Baume's engaging, intriguing and brightly original first novel may mark a comparably significant debut."—*Times Literary Supplement*

"Told in splendid prose, with lyrical descriptions of the landscape, it's an involving story and possibly the best first novel to emerge from Ireland since Eimear McBride's debut."—*The Herald UK*

"One of the most quietly devastating books of the year...With *Spill Simmer Falter Wither* she has created a dark, tender portrait of what it's like to live life on the margins."—*Sydney Morning Herald*

"[A] joltingly original debut ... Baume charts the growing dependency between these two stray souls with remarkable deftness and almost unbearable poignancy."—*Mail on Sunday UK*

"Sara Baume's exquisite debut has a simple plot: an outcast man and his dog One Eye take to the road in a ramshackle car and watch the world, weather and seasons change as they drive through the highways and byways of Ireland. But the prose is full of wonder, inventive, poetic and dazzling, concerned with the smallest detail of the natural landscape and the terrain of human emotion, as Baume heartbreakingly

describes how an ordinary life can falter and stall."—*Sunday Express* UK, "The best books about memories, misfits and mysteries"

"[A] fine debut...Baume succeeds in reawakening her reader's capacity for wonder...so much so that the book and its one-eyed dog became companions I was loathe to leave."—*Observer (The Guardian)*

"A mesmerising debut."—*Telegraph*, Featured at #8 in the "Autumn Arts Preview"

"Every so often a book comes along that is so perfect it takes your breath away, and leaves your heart hammering with the beauty of the writing and the sadness of the story. Sara Baume's debut, *Spill Simmer Falter Wither*, is such a book...Baume's prose is full of wonder – inventive, poetic and dazzling, concerned with the smallest details of the natural landscape and the terrains of human emotion. Absolutely astounding."—*Psychologies*, "Book of the Month"

"A vivid debut that shows that Baume is a talent to keep an eye on...a sweepingly poetic and heartbreaking meditation on life after grief that I won't quickly forget."—*Times Educational Supplement*

"An important and quite brilliant new Irish writing talent."—*Irish Independent*

"An ambitious stylist with an astonishing eye for detail and a clear passion for language. But it is the beautifully measured control of plot and the authenticity of the narrative voice that most impresses."—*Irish Examiner*

"A subtle and powerful story about a man and his dog ... Baume is in terrific control of her prose ... her portrayal of her characters and her setting leap off the page ... I look forward to whatever she writes next."—*Big Issue* UK

"A touching tale about a misfit man finding a misfit dog provides lots of opportunity for exploring what it is to be lonely and outcast, what friendship means, the nature of family."—*Western Morning News* (UK), "Best books to curl up with"

"A quietly wonderful book."—*Good Housekeeping* UK

"In a relentlessly inventive language that, it seems, can maneuver anywhere and describe anything, Baume's story of a man and his dog examines and elegizes the myriad strange, ramshackle, and ephemeral worlds locked deep inside the world. An exceptional, startling, and original book."—Colin Barrett, author of *Young Skins*

"Powerful, heartbreaking, told with great control. The writing is superb . . . I had an image of all language standing to attention, eager to serve this writer." —Mary Costello, author of *Academy Street*

"Touching and weird and sometimes comical and sometimes heartbreaking...Sad, Solid, Fragile, Witty."—Kjersti Skomsvold, author of *The Faster I Walk, the Smaller I Am*

"Elegant, heartbreaking, and inspiring. . . The lyric, lilting style of Baume's voice will endear even animal non-lovers to her thrilling and transformative story. With echoes of Mark Haddon's narrative style and a healthy dose of empathy for the lost and lonely among us, *Spill Simmer Falter Wither* is a superlative first novel." -- *Booklist*, starred review

From the Inside Flap

Extraordinary ... A heartbreakin read, and heralds Baume as a major new talent. *Independent on Sunday*

It is springtime, and two outcasts a man invisible to his village and the one-eyed dog he takes into his quiet, tightly shuttered life find each other, by accident or fate, and forge an unlikely connection. Over the four seasons echoed in the title, Ray opens up to One-Eye, telling him the stories of his life. Then their small seaside town suddenly takes note of them, falsely perceiving menace where there is only mishap. The unlikely duo must take to the road.

Gorgeously written in poetic, mesmerizing prose, *Spill Simmer Falter Wither* has garnered wild support in its native Ireland, where the *Irish Times* pointed to Baume's astonishing power with language and praised it as a novel bursting with brio, braggadocio, and bite.

A moving depiction of how a relationship between fellow injured creatures can bring comfort to each, this is also a celebration of the wonders of this earth that will leave you breathless with hope and expanded in spirit. One of those rare stories that utterly, completely imagines its way into a life most of us would never see, it transforms us not only in our understanding of the world, but also of ourselves.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Vincent Overly:

Now a day folks who Living in the era everywhere everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources in it can be true or not require people to be aware of each info they get. How people have to be smart in having any information nowadays? Of course the reply is reading a book. Reading through a book can help people out of this uncertainty Information especially this *Spill Simmer Falter Wither* book since this book offers you rich details and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred per-cent guarantees there is no doubt in it as you know.

Robert Sanders:

Hey guys, do you would like to finds a new book to learn? May be the book with the concept *Spill Simmer Falter Wither* suitable to you? The particular book was written by renowned writer in this era. Often the book untitled *Spill Simmer Falter Wither* is the main of several books that everyone read now. This particular book was inspired many people in the world. When you read this publication you will enter the new way of measuring that you ever know before. The author explained their strategy in the simple way, so all of people can easily to understand the core of this reserve. This book will give you a lots of information about this world now. To help you to see the represented of the world in this particular book.

Greg Christenson:

The guide untitled *Spill Simmer Falter Wither* is the publication that recommended to you to study. You can see the quality of the publication content that will be shown to you. The language that article author use to explained their ideas are easily to understand. The article author was did a lot of investigation when write the

book, hence the information that they share to you is absolutely accurate. You also can get the e-book of Spill Simmer Falter Wither from the publisher to make you more enjoy free time.

Donald Shelton:

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