



## The Little Red Chairs

By Edna O'Brien

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**The Little Red Chairs** By Edna O'Brien

**A fiercely beautiful novel about one woman's struggle to reclaim a life shattered by betrayal, from one of the greatest storytellers of our time** One night, in the dead of winter, a mysterious stranger arrives in the small Irish town of Cloonoila. Broodingly handsome, worldly, and charismatic, Dr. Vladimir Dragan is a poet, a self-proclaimed holistic healer, and a welcome disruption to the monotony of village life. Before long, the beautiful black-haired Fidelma McBride falls under his spell and, defying the shackles of wedlock and convention, turns to him to cure her of her deepest pains.

Then, one morning, the illusion is abruptly shattered. While en route to pay tribute at Yeats's grave, Dr. Vlad is arrested and revealed to be a notorious war criminal and mass murderer. The Cloonoila community is devastated by this revelation, and no one more than Fidelma, who is made to pay for her deviance and desire. In disgrace and utterly alone, she embarks on a journey that will bring both profound hardship and, ultimately, the prospect of redemption.

Moving from Ireland to London and then to The Hague, THE LITTLE RED CHAIRS is Edna O'Brien's first novel in ten years -- a vivid and unflinching exploration of humanity's capacity for evil and artifice as well as the bravest kind of love.

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## The Little Red Chairs By Edna O'Brien Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"A remarkable novel.... Extraordinary and unsettling."**James Wood, New Yorker**

"[An] extraordinary articulation of the lingering effects of trauma.... In the end, what leaves one in humbled awe of *The Little Red Chairs* is O'Brien's dexterity, her ability to shift without warning - like life - from romance to horror, from hamlet to hell, from war crimes tribunal to midsummer night's dream. And through it all, she embeds the most perplexing moral challenge ever conceived.... At a time when our best writers are such delightfully showy stylists, O'Brien...practices a darker, more subtle magic. Surprise and transformation lurk in even the smallest details, the most ordinary moments."**Ron Charles, Washington Post**

"Boldly imagined and harrowing.... Here, in addition to O'Brien's celebrated gifts of lyricism and mimetic precision, is a new, unsettling fabulist vision that suggests Kafka more than Joyce.... A work of meditation and penance."**Joyce Carol Oates, New York Times Book Review, "Editors' Choice"**

"O'Brien achieves a tone at once mythical and contemporary, archetypal and particularized, and does wonderful things with voice and tense.... *The Little Red Chairs* has much to recommend it: beautiful writing, immense ambition, a vivid cast of supporting characters, and a rigorous humanitarian ethos."**Priscilla Gilman, Boston Globe**

"The great Edna O'Brien has written her masterpiece."**Philip Roth**

"One of [O'Brien's] best and most ambitious novels yet. *The Little Red Chairs* is personal and political; charming and grotesque; a novel of manners and a novel of monsters.... O'Brien's undiminished gifts as a storyteller draw us in and then awaken us to the limits of our own blinkered vision, the fragility of our own safe havens."**Maureen Corrigan, NPR**

"*The Little Red Chairs* is a daring invention set at the bloody crossroads where worlds collide: savage, tender and true."**John Banville**

"Edna O'Brien is both brilliant and brave. This book astonished me."**Ann Patchett**

"Reading *The Little Red Chairs* reaffirms a belief I've held since I first read Ms. O'Brien's work: She is, quite simply, a master."**Kevin Powers**

"Edna O'Brien's *The Little Red Chairs* is a gem of a novel, a text to treasure."**Nuruddin Farah**

"A memorable work of art for our unsettled times.... [O'Brien's] prose is as lyrically arresting as ever, her vision as astute, and as delicate. *The Little Red Chairs* is notable for its interweaving of the near-mythical and the urgent present, and for its unflinching exploration of the complex and lasting effects of human brutality.... At once arduous and beautiful, *The Little Red Chairs* marries myth and fact in a new form that journeys, as we do now, from Cloonoila to The Hague, from fairytale to contemporary agon."**Claire Messud, Financial Times**

"Provocative, moving, masterly.... O'Brien has a way of hypnotizing the reader."**Fiona Wilson, Times (UK)**

"A spectacular piece of work, massive and ferocious and far-reaching.... Holding you in its clutches from first page to last, it dares to address some of the darkest moral questions of our times while never once losing sight of the sliver of humanity at their core.... It's impossible not to be knocked out by the sly perfection of O'Brien's prose."?Julie Myerson, *Guardian*, "Best Books of 2015"

"O'Brien's writing in this rich, wrenching book can be both lyrical and hard-edged, which suits a world where pain shared or a tincture of kindness can help ease the passage from losses."?Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

"O'Brien retains every element of her gorgeous writing [in] her new novel.... Dark fairy-tale threads give the story a magic-realism effect, but ultimately...the author's twenty fourth book is starkly realistic. O'Brien speaks to contemporary political violence in a suitably audible voice."?Brad Hooper, *Booklist* (starred review)

"Slyly terrifying."?Vogue

"Intoxicating.... O'Brien takes up her signature themes--close-knit communities, love and hate for the homeland, the plight of women, loss and desire, victimhood, romantic love--and casts their compassionate reach far beyond Ireland.... [The Little Red Chairs] asks the kinds of questions only a novel could dare; like a great novel must, it leaves many of them unanswered."

?Kseniya Melnik, *O Magazine*

"A tour de force on the atrocities we humans commit and fall prey to, as well as an exploration of suffering and the curative power of story."?Natalie Serber, *San Francisco Chronicle*

"Brilliant"?Kate Mulgrew

"Powerful.... With her inimitable storytelling genius, O'Brien explores the nature of evil."  
?Jane Ciabattari, *BBC*

"This 18th novel from O'Brien delivers noble truths as well as atrocities.... [Her] mastery of symbolism and natural description remain unmatched in modern fiction."  
?John G. Matthews, *Library Journal* (starred review)

"[This] may be the fiercest work of [O'Brien's] estimable career."?Robert Weibezahl, *BookPage*

"O'Brien captures an extraordinary and almost holy innerness in each of her characters, however minor, and then plants those characters amidst the terrible velocity, the terrible pull of world events. O'Brien is truly at her best when she describes the private corners of minds, those quiet and wild corners, our meditative and our inspired selves, the self that Virginia Woolf called 'a wedge-shaped core of darkness, something invisible to others.'"?Annalisa Quinn, *NPR*

"One of those cases where the tidal wave of hype is justified.... A book you are a bit better for having read,

and how many novels can you say that about anymore?"?**Alex Balk, Awl**

"A tense page turner and a timely one."**Billy Heller, New York Post**

"A capacious novel full of exquisitely rendered miniatures.... O'Brien has long been recognized as a gifted short story writer and here she employs her gift for closely observed moments in the service of a novel that is deeply intimate but global in its vision."**Tom Beer, Newsday**

"O'Brien is a masterful stylist, and her descriptions of the natural world, especially the countryside around Cloonoila, are striking in their precision and beauty."**Norah Piehl, Bookreporter**

"Engrossing, beautifully written, and offers the reader much to think about.... O'Brien is a superb storyteller."**Corinna Lothar, Washington Times**

"O'Brien has done more than many governments by giving voice to the dispossessed in this novel of remembrance."**Susan Balee, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette**

"Unashamedly rich and thrilling to read.... It's breathtaking, a fusion of joy, loss and brutality."**Ron Rosenbaum, Smithsonian Magazine**

"A brilliant pastiche of voices, tenses, perspectives."**Catherine Holmes, Post and Courier**

"It's hard to believe that an 85-year-old can still write books big in size and scope with such vitality, grace and precision, but that's exactly what O'Brien does..... [She] has created characters so multifaceted and vivid that they don't become stereotypical as this masterwork evolves from love story into engaging political novel about real-world tyrants."**Joseph Peschel, Raleigh News and Observer**

#### About the Author

Edna O'Brien is the author of *The Country Girls* trilogy, *The Light of Evening*, *The Love Object*, and many other acclaimed books. Born and raised in the west of Ireland, O'Brien has lived in London for many years.

#### Users Review

##### From reader reviews:

###### **Linda Hill:**

Do you have favorite book? In case you have, what is your favorite's book? Book is very important thing for us to find out everything in the world. Each publication has different aim or perhaps goal; it means that reserve has different type. Some people really feel enjoy to spend their time for you to read a book. They may be reading whatever they have because their hobby will be reading a book. Why not the person who don't like reading through a book? Sometime, person feel need book when they found difficult problem as well as exercise. Well, probably you will want this *The Little Red Chairs*.

###### **Mason Childress:**

In this 21st centuries, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive currently, people have do something to make these people survives, being in the middle of often the crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that sometimes many people have underestimated this for a while is

reading. Yep, by reading a publication your ability to survive increase then having chance to endure than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading some sort of book, we give you that The Little Red Chairs book as basic and daily reading publication. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

**Daryl Pena:**

What is your hobby? Have you heard that question when you got students? We believe that that query was given by teacher with their students. Many kinds of hobby, All people has different hobby. So you know that little person like reading or as studying become their hobby. You need to understand that reading is very important in addition to book as to be the point. Book is important thing to provide you knowledge, except your own teacher or lecturer. You get good news or update with regards to something by book. Many kinds of books that can you choose to adopt be your object. One of them is this The Little Red Chairs.

**Anne Shivers:**

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