



THE BIG O

by Declan Burke

Karen can't go on pulling stick-ups forever, but Rossi is getting out of prison any day now and she needs the money to keep Anna out of his hands. This new guy she's met, Ray, just might be able to help her out, but he wants out of the kidnap game now the Slavs are bunkering in.

This is the story of a tiger kidnapping seen through the eyes of a wide cast of characters. It jumps from Karen and Ray to Detective Doyle, Frank—the discredited plastic surgeon who wants his ex-wife snatched—and Doug, the lawyer who convinces him to do it. Then there's the ex-wife herself, who just happens to be Karen's best friend. Can Karen and Ray trust each other enough to carry off one last caper? Or will love, as always, ruin everything?

This is the second novel from Declan Burke, whose *Eight Ball Boogie* was hailed as 'that rare commodity, a first novel that reads as if it were penned by a writer in mid-career ... [it] marks the arrival of a new master of suspense on the literary scene' (Hank Wagner, *Mystery Scene*), and as 'razor-sharp fiction' (*Irish Examiner*).

'... a plot that takes off at a blistering pace and never lets up. The writing is a joy, so seamless you nearly miss the sheer artistry of the style and the terrific, wry humour. This isn't a great Irish crime novel, it's a great crime novel full stop.'

KEN BRUEN, Shamus-award winning author of *The Guards*

DECLAN BURKE was born in Sligo in 1969. He is a freelance writer with *The Sunday Times*, *Village Magazine* and *The Dubliner*. Once an enthusiastic sportsman, he somehow contrived to miss two penalties in successive All-Ireland finals—one hurling, one soccer—within nine months of one another. With friends and fellow martyrs to the Sligo Rovers' cause Martin Finan and Stephen Fahy, he published *They Think It's All Over* in 1995, a year-in-the-life account of a typical group of Rovers supporters. The date of its publication coincided with President Bill Clinton's first visit to Ireland, which led, on RTÉ's 'Six-One' news, to the surreal juxtaposition of Bill Clinton calling for peace in Northern Ireland with Declan Burke calling for a half-decent striker for the Bit O' Red.

The happiest moments of his life to date: Wexford win the Liam McCarthy cup (1996); Liverpool win the European Cup (aka Champions League) (2005); *Eight Ball Boogie* is published (2003); stepping off a plane onto Greek soil (any year since 1991); his wedding day (2006) (no, seriously).



subject classification fiction
format/extent 203 x 136 mm, 288 pp
publication date 4 April 2007
price €12.99 pbk
isbn 978-0-9551264-2-0

FOR MORE INFORMATION, or to arrange an interview with the author, please contact Marsha Swan at email publicity@hagsheadpress.com tel. 00 33 (0) 9.54.09.47.72 mob. 00 353 (0) 87 659 1491