

Encounters: Stories and Prose by Rathmines Writers Workshop

Edited by Pauline Hall

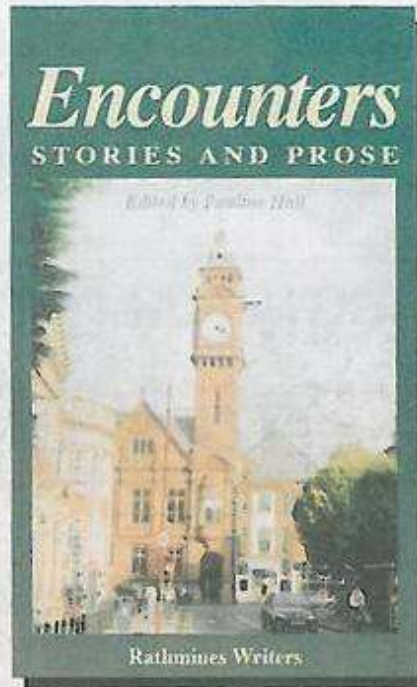
(www.rathmineswritersworkshop.com)

Written words make for the most effective communication and, when beautifully employed, conjure powerful atmosphere and imagery that we usually don't stop to contemplate.

Indeed, the latest collection from Rathmines Writers Workshop contains many apt examples of this in the witty, creepy, touching, satirical and unpredictable tales between its pages.

Rathmines Writers Workshop was founded in 1990 with the aim of encouraging creative writing among the community of the greater Rathmines area, and providing constructive feedback for its members' work.

Over the years the workshop's members have become prolific in publishing both as a group and on an individual basis – beginning with the group's first poetry anthology in 1993, *Extended Wings 1*. The workshop's latest is *Encounters: Stories and Prose*, a collection of 27 short stories published in late 2008.



This eclectic collection is designed to excite the story-loving senses - it certainly did for mine

'Souls for Seeing' will have you terrified, scrambling to look inwards with a spiritual eye, wandering what the colour of your soul is. 'Do Humans Cry?' is an emotional heart-tugger with a positive lesson in love, while 'Voik Remembers' comes with a twist that brings to the fore the raging ethnic and racial tensions that continue to tear across the earth.

'A Rugged Experience' and 'A Vision for the Future' view the present diverse Irish landscape through the eyes of the Irish. 'The Game' explores that aspect of human nature that knows when it is time to say enough is enough. 'Growing Up' will bring a remembering smile to your face, for that time when we think we were grown up enough for everything.

Elsewhere, the scam with a race-horse recounted in 'Encouraging Jupiter' will have you in stitches, while 'Exiles' should make you scratch your head in wonder, and 'The Prisoner of Marwood Gardens' will surely twitch your lips.

All in all, this eclectic collection is designed to excite the story-loving senses – it certainly did for mine.

And of no less interest are the authors themselves: without knowing who they are or where they come from, one can marvel at their skills with words. The range of styles presented also ensured that I didn't stop reading till I turned the last page with a sigh, hoping to read even more.



Ifedinma Dimbo, originally from Nigeria, is the author of a soon-to-be-published women's novel She Was Foolish? More details about the author, her work and the Irish Writers' Exchange can be found online at www.irishwriters-exchange.com