

# let the great world spin by colum mccann

**\*\*Let the Great World Spin by Colum McCann: A Deep Dive into a Masterful Novel\*\***

**let the great world spin by colum mccann** is a powerful and evocative novel that captures the complexities of human existence against the backdrop of 1970s New York City. This book, renowned for its lyrical prose and intricate storytelling, offers readers an unforgettable journey through interconnected lives shaped by a remarkable event – Philippe Petit's daring tightrope walk between the Twin Towers in 1974. McCann's narrative weaves together themes of loss, hope, redemption, and resilience, making it a compelling read for anyone interested in literary fiction that resonates on both emotional and historical levels.

## Exploring the Narrative Structure of Let the Great World Spin by Colum McCann

One of the most striking features of **let the great world spin by colum mccann** is its unique narrative structure. The novel is not a straightforward chronological tale but rather a mosaic of perspectives from various characters whose lives intersect in unexpected ways. This approach allows McCann to explore the multifaceted nature of New York City and its inhabitants, highlighting how a single moment can ripple through countless lives.

## Multiple Perspectives and Their Significance

The story unfolds through the eyes of several key characters, including a grieving mother, a pair of Irish brothers, a Muslim imam, and a couple involved in the underground art scene. Each voice adds depth and richness to the narrative, revealing different facets of grief, love, and survival. This technique emphasizes the interconnectedness of human experiences, encouraging readers to consider how individual stories contribute to a larger human tapestry.

## Philippe Petit's Tightrope Walk: A Symbolic Event

At the heart of the novel is the real-life event of Philippe Petit's tightrope walk between the World Trade Center towers. This daring feat is more than just a thrilling stunt; it serves as a powerful metaphor for balance, risk, and the fragile beauty of life. McCann uses this event as a pivot point around which the characters' lives revolve, blending history with fiction in a way that feels both authentic and poetic.

# **Thematic Depth in Let the Great World Spin by Colum McCann**

Colum McCann's novel is rich with themes that resonate deeply with readers. By exploring universal concepts such as trauma, forgiveness, and the search for meaning, *let the great world spin* by colum mccann transcends its historical setting and speaks to the human condition.

## **Grief and Healing**

Many characters in the novel grapple with profound loss, whether it's the death of a child, the pain of war, or the scars of violence. McCann portrays grief not as a solitary experience but as a shared human condition that can lead to healing and connection. This nuanced portrayal encourages empathy and invites readers to reflect on their own experiences with loss.

## **Hope Amidst Chaos**

Despite the novel's often somber tone, there is an underlying current of hope. The characters find moments of grace and redemption amidst the chaos of their lives. Whether through acts of kindness, artistic expression, or spiritual awakening, *let the great world spin* by colum mccann illustrates that hope persists even in the darkest times.

## **Urban Life as a Character**

New York City itself emerges as a vibrant, living entity within the pages of the book. McCann's vivid descriptions bring the city to life, capturing its diversity, energy, and contradictions. The urban landscape shapes the characters' experiences and serves as a constant reminder of the complexity and interconnectedness of modern life.

## **Stylistic Elements and Literary Techniques**

Colum McCann's writing style in *let the great world spin* is notable for its poetic quality and emotional resonance. His use of language elevates the narrative, creating an immersive reading experience that lingers long after the final page.

## **Lyrical Prose and Imagery**

One of the standout qualities of McCann's prose is its lyricism. His sentences often flow like poetry, rich with vivid imagery that appeals to the senses. This stylistic choice enhances the emotional impact of the story and draws readers deeply into the world he creates.

## Interweaving Stories with Seamless Transitions

McCann skillfully transitions between different characters' viewpoints, maintaining narrative momentum while allowing each voice to shine. This technique requires careful craftsmanship to avoid confusion, and McCann succeeds in creating a cohesive and compelling tapestry of stories.

## Why Let the Great World Spin by Colum McCann Matters Today

Even decades after its publication, *Let the Great World Spin* by Colum McCann remains relevant and meaningful. Its exploration of human connection, resilience, and the search for meaning echoes in today's world, where division and uncertainty often dominate headlines.

## Relevance to Contemporary Readers

In an era marked by social and political upheaval, McCann's novel reminds us of the power of empathy and shared humanity. The characters' struggles and triumphs reflect ongoing challenges faced by individuals and communities worldwide, making the book a timeless meditation on what it means to be human.

## Inspiration for Writers and Readers Alike

For aspiring writers, *Let the Great World Spin* by Colum McCann offers a masterclass in narrative structure and character development. McCann's ability to balance multiple storylines and create emotionally resonant characters provides valuable lessons in storytelling craft. For readers, the novel is an invitation to engage with literature that challenges, inspires, and moves.

## Tips for Readers Approaching Let the Great World Spin by Colum McCann

If you're about to dive into *Let the Great World Spin* by Colum McCann, here are a few tips to enhance your reading experience:

- **Pay attention to character connections:** Keep track of how characters' stories intersect to fully appreciate the novel's intricate design.
- **Embrace the poetic style:** Don't rush through the prose; savor McCann's lyrical language and imagery.
- **Consider historical context:** Familiarity with 1970s New York and the Twin Towers can deepen your understanding of the novel's setting and symbolism.

- **Reflect on themes:** Take time to ponder the novel's exploration of grief, hope, and human connection, as these themes resonate beyond the story.

Let the great world spin by colum mccann is more than just a novel—it's an experience that invites readers to see the world through multiple lenses, reminding us that despite our differences, our stories are intertwined, and in the grand scheme, the world indeed keeps spinning.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the central theme of 'Let the Great World Spin' by Colum McCann?**

The central theme of 'Let the Great World Spin' is interconnectedness and the human experience, exploring how diverse lives intersect in 1970s New York City against the backdrop of Philippe Petit's tightrope walk between the Twin Towers.

### **How does Colum McCann structure the narrative in 'Let the Great World Spin'?**

Colum McCann structures the novel through multiple perspectives and interwoven stories, each chapter focusing on different characters whose lives are connected by the extraordinary event of the tightrope walk, creating a mosaic of experiences and viewpoints.

### **What historical event inspired 'Let the Great World Spin' and how is it portrayed?**

The novel is inspired by Philippe Petit's real-life 1974 tightrope walk between the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center. It is portrayed as a symbolic and transformative event that impacts the lives of various characters and serves as a metaphor for balance, risk, and human connection.

### **How does 'Let the Great World Spin' address social issues of the 1970s?**

The novel addresses social issues such as poverty, racism, violence, and class disparity in 1970s New York, illustrating the struggles of marginalized communities and highlighting themes of empathy, redemption, and resilience.

### **What role does the city of New York play in 'Let the Great World Spin'?**

New York City acts as a vibrant and multifaceted character in the novel, providing the setting where disparate lives converge. The city's energy, diversity, and contrasts underscore the novel's exploration of connection amidst chaos and hardship.

## **Additional Resources**

Let the Great World Spin by Colum McCann: A Literary Exploration of Humanity and Connection

**let the great world spin by colum mccann** stands as a seminal work in contemporary American literature, weaving together a tapestry of interconnected lives set against the backdrop of 1970s New York City. Published in 2009, this novel has garnered critical acclaim for its narrative ambition, thematic depth, and stylistic innovation. In examining this work, it is essential to delve into McCann's approach to storytelling, the historical context, and the novel's exploration of human resilience and interconnectedness.

## **In-Depth Analysis of Let the Great World Spin by Colum McCann**

Colum McCann's novel is anchored by a real historical event: Philippe Petit's daring tightrope walk between the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in 1974. This extraordinary feat serves as both a literal and metaphorical thread throughout the narrative, linking disparate characters whose lives are shaped by personal tragedy, hope, and the search for meaning.

The novel's structure is notable for its polyphonic narrative style. McCann employs multiple perspectives, ranging from a grieving mother to a Dominican immigrant to a group of Bronx teenagers, each voice adding complexity and texture to the overarching story. This multiplicity challenges readers to consider the multifaceted nature of urban life and the invisible connections that bind individuals together.

## **Thematic Exploration: Interconnection Amidst Chaos**

At its core, **let the great world spin by colum mccann** interrogates themes of trauma and healing. The shadow of the Vietnam War looms over many characters, reflecting broader societal wounds. For instance, Corrigan, a Vietnam veteran and monk, embodies the struggle for redemption and peace in a fractured world. His efforts to aid marginalized communities in the Bronx highlight the novel's emphasis on compassion as a counterbalance to urban alienation.

Another salient theme is the fragility and resilience of human connection. The tightrope walker's precarious journey symbolizes the delicate balance individuals maintain in their lives, as well as the possibility of transcendence through courage and grace. McCann's narrative suggests that despite the fragmentation and hardship of modern life, moments of beauty and solidarity persist.

## **Characterization and Narrative Techniques**

McCann's character development is nuanced and empathetic, avoiding caricature in favor of deeply human portrayals. Each character's voice is distinct, achieved through varied linguistic styles and internal monologues. This approach enhances the immersive quality of the novel, inviting readers to

inhabit diverse socio-economic and cultural viewpoints.

The author's prose is often lyrical yet grounded, balancing poetic imagery with gritty realism. This stylistic duality reinforces the novel's thematic contrasts: hope and despair, order and chaos, individual and community. McCann's ability to shift seamlessly between voices and settings exemplifies his mastery of narrative form.

## Contextual Significance and Comparative Perspectives

Let the great world spin by colum mccann situates itself within a tradition of urban literature that examines the complexities of city life through interwoven stories. Comparisons can be drawn to works like Jennifer Egan's "A Visit from the Goon Squad" or David Mitchell's "Cloud Atlas," both of which explore interconnected narratives spanning time and space.

However, McCann's focus on a singular historical moment—the tightrope walk—and its symbolic resonance sets his novel apart. This event acts as a unifying motif, around which the diverse experiences of 1970s New Yorkers revolve. The novel also predates the tragic destruction of the Twin Towers in 2001, imbuing the text with a poignant retrospective significance.

## Pros and Cons of Let the Great World Spin by Colum McCann

- **Pros:** The novel's rich characterization and intricate narrative structure offer profound insights into human nature and urban dynamics. Its poetic yet accessible prose engages a wide readership, while the historical context provides educational value.
- **Cons:** Some readers may find the multiplicity of perspectives challenging to follow, and the non-linear timeline requires attentive reading. Additionally, the novel's dense thematic layers might be overwhelming for those seeking straightforward storytelling.

## Relevance in Contemporary Literature

Let the great world spin by colum mccann remains relevant for its exploration of universal human experiences—loss, hope, and the search for meaning amid adversity. Its portrayal of New York City as a microcosm of global diversity and struggle resonates strongly in today's multicultural urban environments.

Moreover, the novel's emphasis on interconnectedness anticipates current literary trends that prioritize complexity and multiplicity over singular narratives. For scholars and readers interested in postmodern narrative techniques, McCann's work serves as a compelling case study.

The novel has also inspired adaptations and discussions in academic circles,

contributing to ongoing conversations about memory, trauma, and the role of art in interpreting history. Its cross-genre appeal—blending historical fiction, literary fiction, and social commentary—ensures its place in both popular and critical domains.

In reflecting upon *Let the Great World Spin* by Colum McCann, it becomes evident that the novel is not merely a recounting of historical events but a profound meditation on the human condition. Through its interlaced stories and evocative prose, it challenges readers to recognize the invisible threads that connect disparate lives and to appreciate the extraordinary within the ordinary rhythms of the great world spinning around us.

## [Let The Great World Spin By Colum Mccann](#)

**let the great world spin by colum mccann: Let the Great World Spin** Colum McCann, 2009-11-30 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER • Colum McCann's beloved novel inspired by Philippe Petit's daring high-wire stunt, which is also depicted in the film *The Walk* starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt In the dawning light of a late-summer morning, the people of lower Manhattan stand hushed, staring up in disbelief at the Twin Towers. It is August 1974, and a mysterious tightrope walker is running, dancing, leaping between the towers, suspended a quarter mile above the ground. In the streets below, a slew of ordinary lives become extraordinary in bestselling novelist Colum McCann's stunningly intricate portrait of a city and its people. *Let the Great World Spin* is the critically acclaimed author's most ambitious novel yet: a dazzlingly rich vision of the pain, loveliness, mystery, and promise of New York City in the 1970s. Corrigan, a radical young Irish monk, struggles with his own demons as he lives among the prostitutes in the middle of the burning Bronx. A group of mothers gather in a Park Avenue apartment to mourn their sons who died in Vietnam, only to discover just how much divides them even in grief. A young artist finds herself at the scene of a hit-and-run that sends her own life careening sideways. Tillie, a thirty-eight-year-old grandmother, turns tricks alongside her teenage daughter, determined not only to take care of her family but to prove her own worth. Elegantly weaving together these and other seemingly disparate lives, McCann's powerful allegory comes alive in the unforgettable voices of the city's people, unexpectedly drawn together by hope, beauty, and the "artistic crime of the century." A sweeping and radical social novel, *Let the Great World Spin* captures the spirit of America in a time of transition, extraordinary promise, and, in hindsight, heartbreaking innocence. Hailed as a "fiercely original talent" (*San Francisco Chronicle*), award-winning novelist McCann has delivered a triumphantly American masterpiece that awakens in us a sense of what the novel can achieve, confront, and even heal. Praise for *Let the Great World Spin* "This is a gorgeous book, multilayered and deeply felt, and it's a damned lot of fun to read, too. Leave it to an Irishman to write one of the greatest-ever novels about New York. There's so much passion and humor and pure life force on every page of *Let the Great World Spin* that you'll find yourself giddy, dizzy, overwhelmed."—Dave Eggers "Stunning . . . [an] elegiac glimpse of hope . . . It's a novel rooted firmly in time and place. It vividly captures New York at its worst and best. But it transcends all that. In the end, it's a novel about families—the ones we're born into and the ones we make for ourselves."—USA Today "The first great 9/11 novel . . . We are all dancing on the wire of history, and even on solid ground we breathe the thinnest of air."—*Esquire* "Mesmerizing . . . a Joycean look at the lives of New Yorkers changed by a single act on a single day . . . Colum McCann's marvelously rich novel . . . weaves a portrait of a city and a moment, dizzyingly satisfying to read and difficult to put down."—*The Seattle Times* "Vibrantly whole . . . With a series of spare, gorgeously wrought vignettes, Colum McCann brings 1970s New York to life. . . . And as always, McCann's heart-stoppingly simple descriptions wow."—*Entertainment Weekly* "An act of pure bravado, dizzying proof that to keep your balance you

need to know how to fall.”—O: The Oprah Magazine

**let the great world spin by colum mccann: Let the Great World Spin** Colum McCann, 2009-06-23 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER • Colum McCann’s beloved novel inspired by Philippe Petit’s daring high-wire stunt, which is also depicted in the film *The Walk* starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt In the dawning light of a late-summer morning, the people of lower Manhattan stand hushed, staring up in disbelief at the Twin Towers. It is August 1974, and a mysterious tightrope walker is running, dancing, leaping between the towers, suspended a quarter mile above the ground. In the streets below, a slew of ordinary lives become extraordinary in bestselling novelist Colum McCann’s stunningly intricate portrait of a city and its people. *Let the Great World Spin* is the critically acclaimed author’s most ambitious novel yet: a dazzlingly rich vision of the pain, loveliness, mystery, and promise of New York City in the 1970s. Corrigan, a radical young Irish monk, struggles with his own demons as he lives among the prostitutes in the middle of the burning Bronx. A group of mothers gather in a Park Avenue apartment to mourn their sons who died in Vietnam, only to discover just how much divides them even in grief. A young artist finds herself at the scene of a hit-and-run that sends her own life careening sideways. Tillie, a thirty-eight-year-old grandmother, turns tricks alongside her teenage daughter, determined not only to take care of her family but to prove her own worth. Elegantly weaving together these and other seemingly disparate lives, McCann’s powerful allegory comes alive in the unforgettable voices of the city’s people, unexpectedly drawn together by hope, beauty, and the “artistic crime of the century.” A sweeping and radical social novel, *Let the Great World Spin* captures the spirit of America in a time of transition, extraordinary promise, and, in hindsight, heartbreaking innocence. Hailed as a “fiercely original talent” (*San Francisco Chronicle*), award-winning novelist McCann has delivered a triumphantly American masterpiece that awakens in us a sense of what the novel can achieve, confront, and even heal. **BONUS:** This edition includes an excerpt from Colum McCann’s *TransAtlantic*. “This is a gorgeous book, multilayered and deeply felt, and it’s a damned lot of fun to read, too. Leave it to an Irishman to write one of the greatest-ever novels about New York. There’s so much passion and humor and pure life force on every page of *Let the Great World Spin* that you’ll find yourself giddy, dizzy, overwhelmed.”—Dave Eggers “Stunning . . . [an] elegiac glimpse of hope . . . It’s a novel rooted firmly in time and place. It vividly captures New York at its worst and best. But it transcends all that. In the end, it’s a novel about families—the ones we’re born into and the ones we make for ourselves.”—USA Today

**let the great world spin by colum mccann:** *Let the Great World Spin* by Colum McCann | *Summary & Study Guide* ,

**let the great world spin by colum mccann: Let the Great World Spin** Colum McCann, 2009 New York, August 1974. A man is walking the sky. The city stands still in awe. Between the newly built Twin Towers the man is striding, twirling and showboating his way through the air. One hundred and ten stories below him, the lives of eight strangers spin towards each other... Corrigan, a radical, passionate Irish monk working in the Bronx with a clutch of prostitutes; Claire, a delicate Upper East Side housewife reeling from the death of her son in Vietnam; her husband Solomon, a cynical judge turning over petty criminals in a downtown court; Lara, a young artist struggling with a spiralling drug addiction and a doomed marriage; Fernando, a thirteen-year-old photographer chasing underground graffiti; Gloria, solid and proud despite decades of hardship; Tillie, a courageous hooker who used to dream of a better life; and Jazzlyn, her beautiful, reckless daughter raised on promises that reach beyond the high-rises of New York. Set against a time of sweeping political and social change, from the backlash against the Vietnam War and the lingering spectre of the oil crisis to the beginnings of the Internet - a time that hauntingly mirrors the present time - these disparate lives will collide in the shadow of one reckless and beautiful act, and be transformed for ever. Weaving together themes of love, loss, belonging, duty and human striving, *Let the Great World Spin* celebrates the effervescent spirit of an age and the small beauties of everyday life. At once intimate and magnificent, elegant and astonishing, it is a lyrical masterpiece from a storyteller who continues to use the wide world as his canvas.



**let the great world spin by colum mccann: Understanding Colum McCann** John Cusatis, 2012-08-24 The first critical approach to the literary career of the 2009 National Book Award winner *Understanding Colum McCann* chronicles the Irish-born writer's journey to literary celebrity from his days as a teenage sportswriter for the Irish Press in the 1970s, through the publication of his award-winning first story, *Tresses*, in 1990, to his winning the 2009 National Book Award in fiction for the international bestseller *Let the Great World Spin*. In this first critical study of McCann's body of work, John Cusatis provides an introduction to McCann's life and career; an overview of his major themes, style, and influences; and close readings of his two short story collections and five novels. Cusatis traces McCann's redefinition of the Irish novel, exploring the author's propensity for transcending aesthetic, cultural, ethnic, geographical, and social boundaries in his ascent from the status of Irish novelist to international novelist. In the process, this study illuminates the various incarnations of McCann's perennial subject: exile, both geographical and emotional. Cusatis also delineates how the influences of McCann's Irish upbringing, penchant for international travel, and exhaustive and eclectic reading of literature manifest themselves in his fiction. Close attention is given to McCann's stylistic trademarks, such as his poetic voice, use of Christian symbolism, Irish and classical mythology, intertextuality, multiple viewpoints, nonlinear plot structure, and the merger of what McCann deems factual truth and textual truth. *Understanding Colum McCann* makes use of the existing body of published interviews, profiles, and critical articles, as well as a decade of correspondence between Cusatis and McCann. With international interest in McCann on the rise, this first full-length study of his career to date serves as an ideal point of entrance for students, scholars, and serious readers, and offers the biographical and critical foundation necessary for a deeper understanding of McCann's fiction.

**let the great world spin by colum mccann: Conversations with Colum McCann** Earl G. Ingersoll, Mary C. Ingersoll, 2017-07-13 *Conversations with Colum McCann* brings together eighteen interviews with a world-renowned fiction writer. Ranging from his 1994 literary debut, *Fishing the Sloe-Black River*, to a new and unpublished interview conducted in 2016, these interviews represent the development as well as the continuation of McCann's interests. The number and length of the later conversations attest to his star-power. *Let the Great World Spin* earned him the National Book Award and promises to become a major motion picture. His most recent novel, *TransAtlantic*, has awed readers with its dynamic yoking of the 1845-1846 visit of Frederick Douglass to Ireland, the 1919 first nonstop transatlantic flight of Alcock and Brown, and Senator George Mitchell's 1998 efforts to achieve a peace accord in Northern Ireland. An extensive interview by scholar Cecile Maudet is included here, as is an interview by John Cusatis, who wrote *Understanding Colum McCann*, the first extensive critical analysis of McCann's work. An author who actually enjoys talking about his work, McCann (b. 1965) offers insights into his method of writing, what he hopes to achieve, as well as the challenge of writing each novel to go beyond his accomplishments in the novel before. Readers will note how many of his responses include stories in which he himself is the object of the humor and how often his remarks reveal insights into his character as a man who sees the grittiness of the urban landscape but never loses faith in the strength of ordinary people and their capacity to prevail.

**let the great world spin by colum mccann: In Harm's Way** Javier Auyero, María Fernanda Berti, 2016-08-02 A harrowing look at violence among Argentina's urban poor *Arquitecto Tucci*, a neighborhood in Buenos Aires, is a place where crushing poverty and violent crime are everyday realities. Homicides—often involving young people—continue to skyrocket, and in the emergency room there, victims of shootings or knifings are an all-too-common sight. *In Harm's Way* takes a harrowing look at daily life in *Arquitecto Tucci*, examining the sources, uses, and forms of interpersonal violence among the urban poor at the very margins of Argentine society. Drawing on more than two years of immersive fieldwork, sociologist Javier Auyero and María Berti, an elementary school teacher in the neighborhood, provide a powerful and disarmingly intimate account of what it is like to live under the constant threat of violence. They argue that being physically aggressive becomes a habitual way of acting in poor and marginalized communities, and

that violence is routine and carries across various domains of public and private life. Auyero and Berti trace how different types of violence—be it criminal, drug related, sexual, or domestic—overlap, intersect, and blur together. They show how the state is complicit in the production of harm, and describe the routines and relationships that residents, particularly children, establish to cope with and respond to the constant risk that besieges them and their loved ones. Provocative, eye-opening, and extraordinarily moving, *In Harm's Way* is destined to become a classic work on violence at the urban margins.

**let the great world spin by colum mccann: Trauma and Recovery in the Twenty-First-Century Irish Novel** Kathleen Costello-Sullivan, 2018-05-07 The desire to engage and confront traumatic subjects was a facet of Irish literature for much of the twentieth century. Yet, just as Irish society has adopted a more direct and open approach to the past, so too have Irish authors evolved in their response to, and literary uses of, trauma. In *Trauma and Recovery in the Twenty-First-Century Irish Novel*, Costello-Sullivan considers the ways in which the Irish canon not only represents an ongoing awareness of trauma as a literary and cultural force, but also how this representation has shifted since the end of the twentieth and beginning of the twenty-first century. While earlier trauma narratives center predominantly on the role of silence and the individual and/or societal suffering that traumas induce, twenty-first-century Irish narratives increasingly turn from just the recognition of traumatic experiences toward exploring and representing the process of healing and recovery both structurally and narratively. Through a series of keenly observed close readings, Costello-Sullivan explores the work of Colm Tóibín, John Banville, Anne Enright, Emma Donohue, Colum McCann, and Sebastian Barry. In highlighting the power of narrative to amend and address memory and trauma, Costello-Sullivan argues that these works reflect a movement beyond merely representing trauma toward also representing the possibility of recovery from it.

**let the great world spin by colum mccann: Adult Book Club Kit for Colum McCann's Let the Great World Spin**, 2013

**let the great world spin by colum mccann: The City Since 9/11** Keith Wilhite, 2016-03-04 Charting the intersection of aesthetic representation and the material conditions of urban space, *The City Since 9/11* posits that the contemporary metropolis provides a significant context for reassessing theoretical concerns related to narrative, identity, home, and personal precarity. In the years since the September 11 attacks, writers and filmmakers have explored urban spaces as contested sites—shaped by the prevailing discourses of neoliberalism, homeland security, and the war on terror, but also haunted by an absence in the landscape that registers loss and prefigures future menace. In works of literature, film, and television, the city emerges as a paradoxical space of permanence and vulnerability and a convergence point for anxieties about globalization, structural inequality, and apocalyptic violence. Building on previous scholarship addressing trauma and the spectacle of terror, the contributors also draw upon works of philosophy, urban studies, and postmodern geography to theorize how literary and visual representations expose the persistent conflicts that arise as cities rebuild in the shadow of past ruins. Their essays advance new lines of argument that clarify art's role in contemporary debates about spatial practices, gentrification, cosmopolitanism, memory and history, nostalgia, the uncanny and the abject, postmodern virtuality, the politics of realism, and the economic and social life of cities. The book offers fresh readings of familiar post-9/11 novels, such as Jonathan Safran Foer's *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close*, but it also considers works by Teju Cole, Joseph O'Neill, Silver Krieger, Colum McCann, Ronald Sukenick, Jonathan Lethem, Thomas Pynchon, Colson Whitehead, Paul Auster, William Gibson, Amitav Ghosh, and Katherine Boo. In addition, *The City Since 9/11* includes essays on the films *Children of Men*, *Hugo*, and the adaptation of *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close*, chapters on the television series *The Bridge*, *The Killing*, and *The Wire*, and an analysis of Michael Arad's *Reflecting Absence* and the 9/11 Memorial.

**let the great world spin by colum mccann: 9/11 in European Literature** Svenja Frank, 2017-11-28 This volume looks at the representation of 9/11 and the resulting wars in European literature. In the face of inner-European divisions the texts under consideration take the terror

attacks as a starting point to negotiate European as well as national identity. While the volume shows that these identity formations are frequently based on the construction of two Others—the US nation and a cultural-ethnic idea of Muslim communities—it also analyses examples which undermine such constructions. This much more self-critical strand in European literature unveils the Eurocentrism of a supposedly general humanistic value system through the use of complex aesthetic strategies. These strategies are in itself characteristic of the European reception as the Anglo-Irish, British, Dutch, Flemish, French, German, Italian, and Polish perspectives collected in this volume perceive of the terror attacks through the lens of continental media and semiotic theory.

**let the great world spin by colum mccann:** Children of the Raven and the Whale Caroline Chamberlin Hellman, 2019-11-20 Taking its cue from Perry Miller's 1956 classic of American literary criticism, *The Raven and the Whale: The War of Words and Wits in the Era of Poe and Melville*, Caroline Chamberlin Hellman's new book examines ways in which contemporary multi-ethnic writers of the United States have responded to nineteenth- and early twentieth century texts historically central to the American literary canon. Each chapter of *Children of the Raven and the Whale* looks down the roads American literature ultimately traveled, examining pairs and constellations of texts in conversation. In their rewritings and layerings of new stories over older ones, contemporary writers forge ahead in their interrogations of a spectrum of American experience, whether they or their characters are native to the United States, first- or second-generation immigrants, or transnational. Revealing the traces of texts by writers such as Walt Whitman, Herman Melville, Nathaniel Hawthorne, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, Richard Wright, and James Baldwin lying beneath contemporary American literature by Chang-rae Lee, Jonathan Lethem, Jhumpa Lahiri, Junot Díaz, Joseph O'Neill, Colum McCann, and Ta-Nehisi Coates, Hellman posits the existence of a twenty-first-century American renaissance.

**let the great world spin by colum mccann:** *Transatlantic Fictions of 9/11 and the War on Terror* Susana Araújo, 2015-10-22 Extending the study of post-9/11 literature to include transnational perspectives, this book explores the ways in which contemporary writers from Europe as well as the USA have responded to the attacks on the World Trade Centre and the ensuing 'war on terror.' *Transatlantic Fictions of 9/11 and the 'War on Terror'* demonstrates the ways in which contemporary fiction has wrestled with anxieties about national and international security in the 21st century. Reading a wide range of novels by such writers as Amy Waldman, Michael Cunningham, Frédéric Beigbeder, Ian McEwan, Joseph O'Neill, Moshin Hamid, José Saramago, Ricardo Menéndez Salmón, J.M. Coetzee and Salman Rushdie, Susana Araújo explores how the rhetoric of the 'war on terror' has shaped recent representations of the city and how "security" discourses circulate transatlantically and transnationally. By focusing not only on 9/11 but also on the way subsequent events such as the wars in Afghanistan and in Iraq are represented in fiction, this book demonstrates how notions of "terror" and "insecurity" have been absorbed, reworked or critiqued in fiction. Araújo examines to what extent transatlantic relations have reinforced or challenged new fictions of "white western middle class captivity."

**let the great world spin by colum mccann:** Post-9/11 Historical Fiction and Alternate History Fiction Pei-chen Liao, 2020-09-19 Drawing on theories of historiography, memory, and diaspora, as well as from existing genre studies, this book explores why contemporary writers are so fascinated with history. Pei-chen Liao considers how fiction contributes to the making and remaking of the transnational history of the U.S. by thinking beyond and before 9/11, investigating how the dynamics of memory, as well as the emergent present, influences readers' reception of historical fiction and alternate history fiction and their interpretation of the past. Set against the historical backdrop of WWII, the Vietnam War, and the War on Terror, the novels under discussion tell Jewish, Japanese, white American, African, Muslim, and Native Americans' stories of trauma and survival. As a means to transmit memories of past events, these novels demonstrate how multidirectional memory can be not only collective but connective, as exemplified by the echoes that post-9/11 readers hear between different histories of violence that the novels chronicle, as well as between the past and the present.

**let the great world spin by colum mccann:** *Searching for Enough* Tyler Staton, 2021-03-02

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