

On a windswept peninsula stretching out into the Atlantic, Tomás and his reluctant son, Liam, are working for the great Ordnance Survey project to map the whole of Ireland. The year is 1865, and in a country not long since ravaged and emptied by the Great Hunger, the task is not an easy one. Tomás, however, is determined that his maps will be a record of the disaster.

The British soldiers in charge are due to arrive any day, expecting the work to be completed, but Tomás is unexpectedly sent off course by an unsettling encounter in a copse. His life, and the lives of those of his family, will never be the same again. Liam is terrified by the sudden change in his taciturn father. What was it that caused such cracks to open in Tomás, and how is Liam, aged only ten, going to finish the mapping and get them both home?

*Land* is a novel about separation and reunion, tragedy and recovery, colonization and rebellion. It is a story of buried treasure, overlapping lives, ancient woodland, persistent ghosts, a particularly loyal dog, and how, when it comes to both land and history, nothing ever goes away. As spellbinding and varied as the landscape that inspired it, *Land* is, above all, a story of survival, for our times and for all time.

**MAGGIE O'FARRELL** was born in Derry, Northern Ireland, in 1972. Her novels include *Hamnet* (winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award), *After You'd Gone*, *The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox*, *The Hand That First Held Mine* (winner of the Costa Novel Award), and *Instructions for a Heatwave*. She has also written a memoir, *I Am, I Am, I Am: Seventeen Brushes with Death*. She lives in Edinburgh.



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