



A Carra King

A rookie security guard at Dublin airport spots a pool of dried blood under a car: the search for a missing tourist is over. The American found bludgeoned to death in the trunk of his rented car is Patrick (Leyne) Shaughnessy, troubled scion of Irish-American multimillionaire and food tycoon, John Leyne.

From obscure lodgings in remote towns and villages, a confusing account of Shaughnessy's itinerary and interests trickles in. He visited historical sites with an unknown woman companion before disappearing. Meanwhile, background information from the U.S. reveals him as a volatile man: divorced, alcoholic, and estranged from his father. His companion maybe be Aoife Hartnett, an archaeologist from Dublin's National Museum. She too cannot be found. Minogue is soon able to discern

a pattern to Shaughnessy's travels: they match sites where Aoife Hartnett worked, sites where antiquities have been stolen in recent years.

While the investigation broadens, Minogue discovers that one of Leyne's passions in recent years has been the collection of antiquities. Still trying to piece together these baffling shards of information into a mosaic which will map his way to Patrick Shaughnessy's killer, a body is discovered in shallow grave not far from the site of the theft. A Faustian bargain was made: payment is due. Venturing into his ancestral homeland to propitiate his estranged father brought someone not the glory he'd hoped for, but a brutal end.

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- ❑ Brady's sixth novel featuring Inspector Matt Minogue of the Dublin murder squad is his best. Melodic, densely plotted, taking us from the Stone Age to New Age, Brady has a great eye for detail, and a lovely slow pace of storytelling. You can't read this at warp speed. Instead, save it to savour. ('100 Best Books of 2000' Globe and Mail Canada)
 - ❑ 'Magically, Brady's writing make it dense and multi-layered... a treasure of a crime novel.' (Toronto Star Canada)
 - ❑ There's music as well as method in Brady's densely plotted procedurals featuring Inspector Matt Minogue. Minogue ...has the brains as well as the ear to pick out the false notes in the modern miracle of the Celtic Tiger economy.' (New York Times)
 - ❑ '...the kind of book for which the term literary mystery was coined. Fans.. should be thrilled by Brady's tough, smart, unsettling novel...' (Booklist U.S.)
 - ❑ 'Tight plotting and subtle characterization... convincing dialogue and pungent slang contribute to a nuanced portrait of Dublin. Brady skillfully captures all the upheavals brought about by the Celtic Tiger..' (Publishers Weekly U.S.)