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Shawn the Book Maniac reviews The Last September by Elizabeth Bowen

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Bowen's \"The Last September\"

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The Last September (1999) part 1 of 10

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The Heat of the Day

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Neil Jordan, one of the exec producers, suggested that Elizabeth  
Bowen's novel about the twilight of the Ascendancy in Ireland  
would be ideal for the first film of Deborah Warner, esteemed  
theatre ...

The Last September

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69-91) On 22 March 1907 James Joyce published an article entitled "Il Fenianismo: L'ultimo Feniano" (translating as "Fenianism: The Last Fenian") in a journal ... 5 A spy in the house of love: ...

The Judas kiss: Treason and betrayal in six modern Irish novels  
Rally Cat captivated St. Louis Cardinals fans, his story more riveting than baseball. But what started as an act of kindness for the kitten quickly turned into a tense custody battle over a cat whose ...

Rescuing Rally Cat: Inside the secret life of a St. Louis Cardinals legend

Michigan State will induct eight Spartans into its Athletics Hall of Fame on Friday, Sept. 24 as part of its annual "Celebrate" weekend. The 2021 Hall of Fame Class includes: Franklin Gomez (wrestling

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Michigan State Athletics Announces 2021 Hall of Fame Class  
While the actual awards won't be handed out until September, "The Crown," in ... Claire Foy's second-season performance as Queen Elizabeth II and for Stephen Daldry's direction, among ...

Why Emmy Nomination Leader "The Crown" Is Peaking Now  
Earlier this week, the streaming service released the first official look at the expensive eight-part fantasy drama show, announcing it would be released in September 2022. While fans commended ...

Lord of the Rings: Silmarillion fans lose minds after spotting Trees of Valinor in new Amazon series

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Lawmakers said they were blindsided by President Joe Biden's inaction as the deadline neared, some furious that he called on Congress to provide a last-minute solution to protect renters.

Frustration as Biden, Congress allow eviction ban to expire  
But we did kind of make television history last year. I mean ...  
Cynthia Erivo genius. Aretha Elizabeth Olsen one Division. And  
Taylor Joy, the queen's Gambit kate winslet, Mayor of Eastern.

Here are the 2021 Primetime Emmy nominees. Did your favorite make the cut?

Dan Halsted, Marty Bowen and Isaac Klausner ... action thriller starring Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Woody Harrelson and Michiel Huisman, is coming to Netflix in September. Movies // 3 days ago

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Anthony Mackie, David Harbour to star in Netflix's 'We Have a Ghost'

While the actual awards won't be handed out until September, 'The Crown,' in its fourth season ... It had previously won awards for Claire Foy's second-season performance as Queen Elizabeth II and for ...

The Last September is Elizabeth Bowen's portrait of a young woman's coming of age in a brutalized time and place, where the ordinariness of life floats like music over the impending doom of

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history. In 1920, at their country home in County Cork, Sir Richard Naylor and his wife, Lady Myra, and their friends maintain a skeptical attitude toward the events going on around them, but behind the facade of tennis parties and army camp dances, all know that the end is approaching—the end of British rule in the south of Ireland and the demise of a way of life that had survived for centuries. Their niece, Lois Farquar, attempts to live her own life and gain her own freedoms from the very class that her elders are vainly defending. *The Last September* depicts the tensions between love and the longing for freedom, between tradition and the terrifying prospect of independence, both political and spiritual. "Brilliant.... A successful combination of social comedy and private tragedy."—*The Times Literary Supplement* (London)



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Derek Hand's *A History of the Irish Novel* is a major work of criticism on some of the greatest and most globally recognisable writers of the novel form. Writers such as Laurence Sterne, James Joyce, Elizabeth Bowen, Samuel Beckett and John McGahern have demonstrated the extraordinary intellectual range, thematic complexity and stylistic innovation of Irish fiction. Derek Hand provides a remarkably detailed picture of the Irish novel's emergence in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. He shows the story of the genre is the story of Ireland's troubled relationship to modernisation. The first critical synthesis of the Irish novel from

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the seventeenth century to the present day, this is a major book for the field, and the first to thematically, theoretically and contextually chart its development. It is an essential, entertaining and highly original guide to the history of the Irish novel.

In *The Heat of the Day*, Elizabeth Bowen brilliantly recreates the tense and dangerous atmosphere of London during the bombing raids of World War II. Many people have fled the city, and those who stayed behind find themselves thrown together in an odd intimacy born of crisis. Stella Rodney is one of those who chose to stay. But for her, the sense of impending catastrophe becomes acutely personal when she discovers that her lover, Robert, is suspected of selling secrets to the enemy, and that the man who is following him wants Stella herself as the price of his silence.

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Caught between these two men, not sure whom to believe, Stella finds her world crumbling as she learns how little we can truly know of those around us.

The Death of the Heart is perhaps Elizabeth Bowen's best-known book. As she deftly and delicately exposes the cruelty that lurks behind the polished surfaces of conventional society, Bowen reveals herself as a masterful novelist who combines a sense of humor with a devastating gift for divining human motivations. In this piercing story of innocence betrayed set in the thirties, the orphaned Portia is stranded in the sophisticated and politely treacherous world of her wealthy half-brother's home in London. There she encounters the attractive, carefree cad Eddie. To him, Portia is at once child and woman, and he fears her gushing love. To her, Eddie is the only

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reason to be alive. But when Eddie follows Portia to a sea-side resort, the flash of a cigarette lighter in a darkened cinema illuminates a stunning romantic betrayal--and sets in motion one of the most moving and desperate flights of the heart in modern literature.

Eva Trout has a capacity for making trouble, attracting trouble and for spreading trouble around her. This book was the author's last completed novel, first published in 1968.

One of Elizabeth Bowen's most artful and psychologically acute novels, *The House in Paris* is a timeless masterpiece of nuance and atmosphere, and represents the very best of Bowen's celebrated oeuvre. When eleven-year-old Henrietta arrives at the Fishers' well-

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appointed house in Paris, she is prepared to spend her day between trains looked after by an old friend of her grandmother's. Henrietta longs to see a few sights in the foreign city; little does she know what fascinating secrets the Fisher house itself contains. For Henrietta finds that her visit coincides with that of Leopold, an intense child who has come to Paris to be introduced to the mother he has never known. In the course of a single day, the relations between Leopold, Henrietta's agitated hostess Naomi Fisher, Leopold's mysterious mother, his dead father, and the dying matriarch in bed upstairs, come to light slowly and tantalizingly. And when Henrietta leaves the house that evening, it is in possession of the kind of grave knowledge usually reserved only for adults.

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The elusive search for stability is the subject of Professor D. George Boyce's Nineteenth-Century Ireland, the fifth in the New Gill History of Ireland series. Nineteenth-century Ireland began and ended in armed revolt. The bloody insurrections of 1798 were the proximate reasons for the passing of the Act of Union two years later. The "long nineteenth century" lasted until 1922, by which the institutions of modern Ireland were in place against a background of the Great War, the Ulster rebellion and the armed uprising of the nationalist Ireland. The hope was that, in an imperial structure, the ethnic, religious and national differences of the inhabitants of Ireland could be reconciled and eliminated. Nationalist Ireland mobilised a mass democratic movement under Daniel O'Connell to secure Catholic Emancipation before seeing its world transformed by the social cataclysm of the Great Irish Potato Famine. At the

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same time, the Protestant north-east of Ulster was feeling the first benefits of the Industrial Revolution. Although post-Famine Ireland modernised rapidly, only the north-east had a modern economy. The mixture of Protestantism and manufacturing industry integrated into the greater United Kingdom and gave a new twist to the traditional Irish Protestant hostility to Catholic political demands. In the home rule period from the 1880s to 1914, the prospect of partition moved from being almost unthinkable to being almost inevitable. Nineteenth-century Ireland collapsed in the various wars and rebellions of 1912-22. Like many other parts of Europe then and since, it had proved that an imperial superstructure can contain domestic ethnic rivalries, but cannot always eliminate them.

Nineteenth-Century Ireland: Table of Contents Introduction The Union: Prelude and Aftermath, 1798-1808 The Catholic Question

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and Protestant Answers, 1808–29 Testing the Union, 1830–45 The Land and its Nemesis, 1845–9 Political Diversity, Religious Division, 1850–69 The Shaping of Irish Politics (1): The Making of Irish Nationalism, 1870–91 The Shaping of Irish Politics (2): The Making of Irish Unionism, 1870–93 From Conciliation to Confrontation, 1891–1914 Modernising Ireland, 1834–1914 The Union Broken, 1914–23 Stability and Strife in Nineteenth-Century Ireland

This Booker Prize-short listed dark satire of 20th-century Irish society is back in print. Is it possible to kill with kindness? As Molly Keane's Booker Prize-short-listed dark comedy suggests, not only can kindness be deadly, it just may be the best form of revenge. The novel opens as Aroon St. Charles prepares to serve her



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invalid mother a splendid luncheon—the silver gleams, the linens glow—of rabbit mousse, a dish her mother despises. In fact, a single whiff of the stuff is enough to knock the old lady dead. “All my life so far I have done everything for the best reasons and the most unselfish motives,” says Aroon soon after. In the pages that follow she will make her case, reminiscing about her youth among the hunting-and-fishing classes of Ireland, a faded aristocracy dedicated to distraction even as their fortunes dwindle. Keane’s brilliant sleight of hand is to allow her blinkered heroine to narrate her own development from neglected child, to ungainly debutante, to bitter spinster: Aroon understands nothing, yet she reveals all.

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