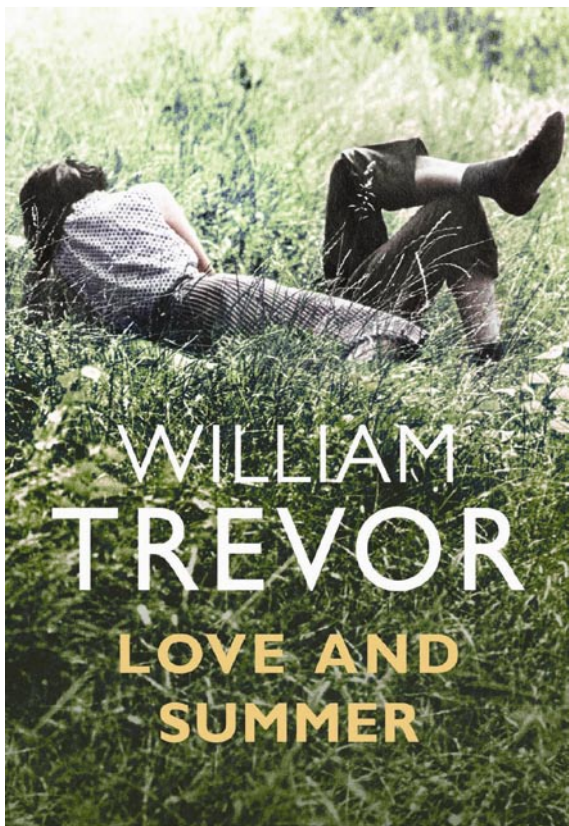




## Reader's Guide



### Other books by William Trevor

- After Rain* (1996)
- Death in Summer* (1998)
- My House in Umbria* (2000)
- The Hill Bachelors* (2000)
- The Story of Lucy Gault* (2002)
- A Bit On the Side* (2004)
- The Dressmaker's Child* (2005)
- Cheating at Canasta* (2007)

# Love and Summer

## William Trevor

Published by Viking  
Price £18.99

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## About the author

William Trevor was born in 1928, County Cork, and spent his childhood in provincial Ireland. He has been shortlisted three times for the Booker Prize, in 1976 with his novel *The Children of Dynmouth*, in 1991 with *Reading Turgenev* and in 2002 with *The Story of Lucy Gault*. He was awarded an honorary CBE in recognition of his valuable services to literature in 1977. In 1999 he received the prestigious David Cohen British Literature Prize in recognition of a lifetime's literary achievements. He attended Trinity College, Dublin, and is a member of the Irish Academy of Letters.

## Love and Summer

It's summer and nothing much is happening in Rathmoye. So it doesn't go unnoticed when a dark-haired stranger appears on his bicycle and begins photographing the mourners at Mrs Connulty's funeral. Florian Kilderry couldn't know that the Connultys were said to own half the town; and, in any case, he had come to Rathmoye only to see the scorched remains of the cinema. But Mrs Connulty's daughter, liberated at last by the death of her imperious mother, resolves to keep an eye on Florian Kilderry, and it's she who comes to witness the events that follow.

A few miles out in the country a farmer called Dillahan lives with the knowledge that he was accidentally responsible for the deaths of his wife and baby. He has married again: Ellie is the young convent girl who came to work for him when he was widowed. But she falls in love with Florian and though he plans to leave Ireland, a dangerously reckless attachment develops between them. In a characteristically masterly way Trevor evokes the passions and frustrations felt by Ellie and Florian, and by the people of a small Irish town during one long summer.

## Discussion points

*Love and Summer* starts with a passive voice and as it progresses the narrative voice becomes more immediate, how does this change of style impact on the reader?

So many of the characters are haunted by their past, how do you think that this affects their actions in the present?

How do you think the novel approaches the choices and expectations of women at the time? How have these changed?

The time when *Love and Summer* is set is not specified, during what decade do you think the novel is set?

Ellie is forced to choose between duty and love. What was your reaction to the choice that she made? What impact did the sense of 'lost opportunities and regret' have on you?

## Themed reading

*My Summer of Love* Helen Cross  
*The Beautiful and the Damned* F Scott Fitzgerald  
*The Gathering* Anne Enright

## Useful links

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