

About the book

The verses and essays in *Reflections* give a picture of lives lived in faith, hope and love. They have their origin in the efforts of a man seated at a computer doing his best to rebuild his life after the unexpected death of a wife who was his life-support for fifty-two years. The computer was recommended by family members as a form of bereavement therapy. While Jimmy fought it at first, he realised its potential for reviving memories in words and pictures and subsequently embraced it with gusto.

The pieces, as written, were circulated via e-mail to family in Ireland, France and Germany. Their encouraging reception prompted Jimmy to print a limited annual edition for family consumption.

It was his cousin, Jimmy Deenihan TD, who persuaded the author to launch this selection to a wider audience. *Reflections* takes the reader through the pain of a husband's loss of his beloved wife to a place of acceptance, using past memories of a shared life to help build the foundation for a new one. In the process of remembering his personal past Jimmy also brings to life aspects from a past Ireland.

"Seldom have I read such a beautiful, poignant and uplifting tribute to love: or such a brilliant celebration of a woman's life. Sophisticated and yet accessible, rooted in Irish experience and yet rich in European allusion and culture, an autobiography in poetry and a reflection on life - and its bittersweet passing - J.J. Geoghegan's evocative writings gave me pleasure, insight, and a sense of the glamour of love. His creativity makes his Eileen unforgettable to us all; and he captures all those small things that illuminate the big themes in mystery, beauty and grief. Here is loss productive of an outpouring of lilting, wise, and readable verse, a narrative by a man under a woman's enduring spell. Read it, and you'll be the better for having known it."

Mary Kenny

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