

The Purple Pencil is Peg Prendeville's first collection of poems since *What's for Dinner, Ma?* which was published in 2001. This new collection presents poems in haiku, sonnet and villanelle form; Peg loves to contemplate nature and takes great delight in using a contemporary haiku form to describe moments in time. While some people take a photograph to remember an occasion, time or place, Peg likes to use the poetic form to eternalise life's happenings, from the seemingly banal to the obviously dramatic, sad and joyful. While most of the poems are autobiographical, they reflect and examine emotions and life events that are experienced by many.



Peg Prendeville has a lifelong interest in writing and reading poetry and stories, and has attended workshops in creative writing and poetry. She has edited the *Loughill/Ballyhahill Parish Annual* for the past 15 years and works part-time at the library in Glin in west Limerick. Peg lives in Glenbawn, Ballyhahill, Co Limerick, where she was raised. She is married with five grown-up children and four grandchildren.

Peg Prendeville writes with quiet confidence about the things of this world: the heart and home, the natural world. She writes of intimate, fleeting moments in our lives, of the ordinary loves that enrich and sustain us. Her poems resonate with universal themes: familial love, loss, grief, joy and wisdom gleaned from a life lived attentive to the smallest details, the subtle changes in the world around her. She works best in established poetic forms that allow her to create rhythms that interweave memory, meaning and image in an understated, individual way.

Jo Slade, poet

The “*past and present come to meet*” in this reflective collection which celebrates the joys and sorrows of family life in sonnets, villanelles and minimalist forms. Love poems and elegies bear witness to the redemptive power of faith in God and in humanity, yet are unsparing in their criticism of a corrupt hierarchy with “... *clerics in their garments hiding all/ for fear the Church would be disgraced; ...*”. The birth of a granddaughter in Australia is cause for joy; despite the distance involved, the family bond remains undiminished by emigration: “*your heartbeat will merge hers and mine tonight. / We share the same blood. Let love do the rest.*” Here is a sure, uplifting voice which points to the grace to be found in the everyday.

Eileen Sheehan, poet

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Reflective Poems Celebrating Everyday Life

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