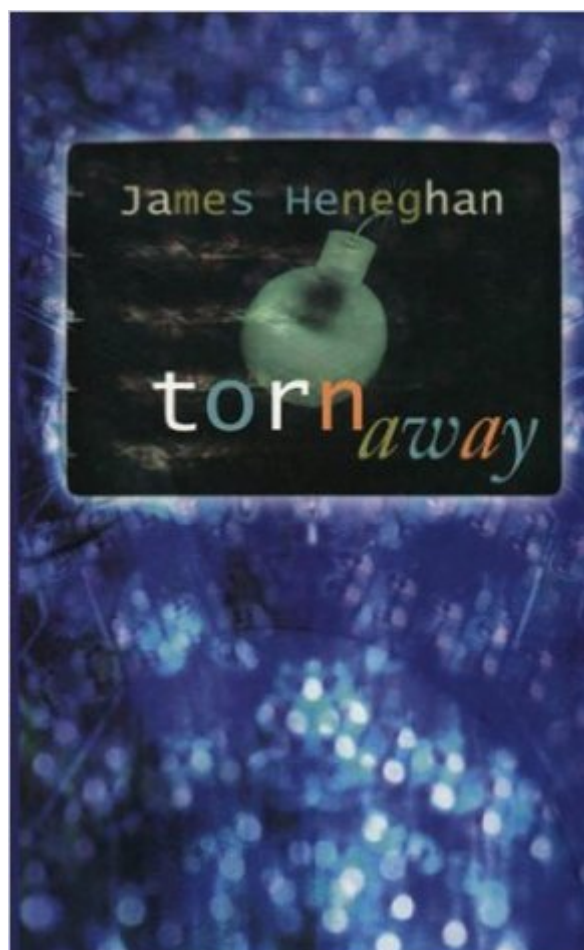


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# Torn Away



## Synopsis

Thirteen-year-old Declan lives only for revenge. His mother, father and sister were all killed on the streets of Belfast, and Declan will stop at nothing to settle the score. When he is torn away from his native soil and sent to live with relatives in Canada, he is disgusted by their efforts to welcome him into their lives, and determined to make them regret their hospitality. Can he devise a plan to return to Ireland and rejoin his cause? Or will the strange beauty of his new life and surroundings weaken his resolve?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The novel "Torn away" describes the situation an Irish 13-year-old boy is in. Declan has lost his family by IRA attacks and is now forced to live with his uncle Matthew in Canada. At the end of the novel he is torn between his wish to return to Northern Ireland to revenge his family's death on the one hand and thoughts about his new life and of eventually staying in Canada on the other hand. In fact, this book is not only about a person changing, but also about a mind changing! "Torn away" describes detailly all thoughts, feelings and the conflict Declan is in. It is written very emotional and sometimes even deeply moving. For example chapter sixteen; there is described the last time Declan sees his mother and sister alive. This is so sad and honestly goes to heart. In contrast to this lovely written chapter, the reader also gets to know cruelty. The religious war in Northern Ireland is approached to the reader. So you get to know another view over the fights than from the news. But besides all these awful things happening, nevertheless it is understandable why Declan wants to

return. He hates his new family, has no friends and is treated worse at school. In addition to that he misses his family and wants to fight the "dirty Prots" (Protestants). But there is a process noticeable. Declan changes during his time in Canada, but in spite of that till the end of the novel he has to think of going back to Northern Ireland. But I myself can't understand the end! For me it is too trashy. There is no introduction to this end, it comes really suddenly and abruptly. It seems, that James Heneghan absolutely wanted to have a happy end. I read this book because it was one theme in my English-profile course at 11th grade.

Representation of real political problems or just English shoddy? The book "Torn Away" deals with a boy, called Declan who is an Irish Catholic and lives in Falls Road/Belfast. His mother and sister died in a bomb attack which was organised by the Brits. Left alone and filled with wrath and anger, Declan joins the terror group "Holy Terrors". There youngsters learn to build bombs and plan attacks against the British army. However, he shall be brought to his uncle who lives in Canada. Declan tries to refuse because he thinks his uncle Matthew is a coward and a traitor of the country because of immigrating to British Columbia. After a lot of attempts to escape, police manages to take him into his uncle's custody. Although, his aunt, uncle and the both adopted kids Ana and Thomas are very friendly and caring, Declan still has the wish to return. First a bargain makes him remain: If he stays until after Christmas and joins school, Matthew won't stop Declan leaving and pays his journey home. But whilst time passes, Declan starts to accept Ana and Thomas as a real brother and sister. He is departed between the family feelings and the so-called "fixer's world", as he calls his new home. The book "Torn Away" has its focus on the Northern Irish conflicts between Protestants and Catholics. The main reasons of fighting with each other are shown very clearly in this book. It recovers the means which the IRA uses to damage or kill their enemies, the Brits. I like the representation of the strong will-power which is in the Catholic and Protestant mind in order to get through their aim for their country. However, the realisation of the difficult topic about the young terrorist Declan isn't so convincing. At the beginning of the story, the rough reality is shown clearly.

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