

Contents

Introduction	1
The Chain by Anne Tannahill	3
Indefinite Article by Francine Cunningham	8
The Dolls by Laura Shier	9
A Child Falling From a Cliff by Laura Shier	10
Knock Three Times by Stella Mahon	11
Dreams by Una Woods	21
Legacy by Ann W. Gleave	22
Pictures by Geraldine Bradley	23
Nursery Rhyme by Ruth Hooley	24
The Last Thing by Frances Molloy	25
Rape by Christine Hammond	30
Daddies' Girls by Maura Johnston	31
Him by Carol Scanlon	32
Father Figure by Maura Johnston	33
One For Sorrow by Laura Shier	34
<i>From</i> Tea in a China Cup by Christina Reid	35
A Curse by Brenda Murphy	40
<i>From</i> The Countrywoman by Una Woods	42
An Invitation to Dinner by Francine Cunningham	45
Mandrake by Francine Cunningham	46
<i>From</i> Myself by Dorothy Gharbaoui	47
Familiars by Ann W. Gleave	52
<i>From</i> Lay Up Your Ends by Marie Jones	54
Leaving by Anne-Marie Reilly	55
The Bonfire by Geraldine Reid	57
Heading Home by Mary McGowan	58
Five Notes After a Visit by Anne Devlin	60
Phantoms by Ann W. Gleave	68
Selvedge by Francine Cunningham	70
A Closed Book by Medbh McGuckian	71
The Old Excuse by Bernadette Ross	72
<i>From</i> A Furnished Room by Janet McNeill	73
The Moon Mother by Medbh McGuckian	76
A Month's Mind by Medbh McGuckian	77
Nervous Breakdown by Janet Shepperson	78
Frizelle Pump by Mary Twomey	80
Moselle by Ann W. Gleave	81
The Wall-Reader by Fiona Barr	82
Snipers by Ann W. Gleave	91
Happy Birthday by Brenda Murphy	93
Under Control by Mary Beckett	94
Change of Life by Evelyn Berman	103
Circus Love by Delia Rimington	105
The Palm House by Shirley Bork	106

Exile by Mary Twomey	111
Documentary by Mary McGowan	112
Inner City by Francine Cunningham	112
A Riot by Anne Noble	113
Lost Roots by Anne Strain	118
The Girls in the Big Picture by Sandra Marshall	119
I'm Sitting With Zen by Geraldine Reid	122
The Comedian by Blanaid McKinney	123
Dora by Polly Devlin	125
Rabelais by Blanaid McKinney	134
The Secret Share by Christine Hammond	135
Limbo by Brenda Murphy	136
Woman Alone by Ruth Hooley	137
All I Ask by Maura Johnston	138
Letting Go by Anne Jago	138
The Reprisal by Jill McKenna	139
Chivalry by Anne Strain	146
He Haunts Me by Sheila Mulvenna	147
An Irish Fairy Tale by Frances Molloy	148
When It Comes by Kate Madden	149
The Charm School by Medbh McGuckian	150
Morocco 1956 by Christine Hammond	151
Solicitor's Office by Patricia Mallon	152
The Eighth Station by Francine Cunningham	153
Still Life by Eileen Kelly	153
The Cage by Frances McEnaney	154
One Autumn by Maura Johnston	164
Meleagris Gallopavo by Ann W. Gleave	166
Grandmother's Signature by Una Woods	168
My Mother's House by Ruth Hooley	169
<i>From</i> The Christmas Tree by Jennifer Johnston	170
A Death in the Family by Francine Cunningham	173
Sunday Visit by Mary Twomey	174
Bone China and Old Lace by Elizabeth Miller	176
Babushka by Bernadette Ross	177
June 23rd by Jan Kennedy	178
Mistaken Stratagem by Elizabeth Miller	183
Acknowledgements	184
<i>Illustration by Viven Burnside</i>	184
Notes on the Contributors	185