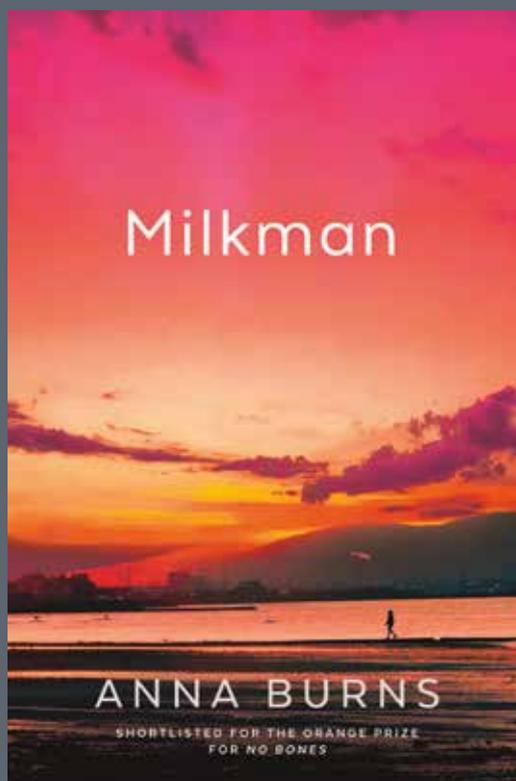




# Readers' Guide



Other novels by Anna Burns  
*Mostly Hero* (2014)  
*Little Constructions* (2007)  
*No Bones* (2001)

## Milkman Anna Burns

Faber & Faber

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About the author	Anna Burns was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, 1962. She is the author of two novels, <i>No Bones</i> and <i>Little Constructions</i> , and of the novella, <i>Mostly Hero</i> . In 2001 she won the Winifred Holtby Memorial Prize, and was shortlisted for the 2002 Orange Prize for Fiction. She lives in East Sussex, England.
About the book	<p>In this unnamed city, to be interesting is dangerous. Middle sister, our protagonist, is busy attempting to keep her mother from discovering her maybe-boyfriend and to keep everyone in the dark about her encounter with Milkman. But when first brother-in-law sniffs out her struggle, and rumours start to swell, middle sister becomes 'interesting'. The last thing she ever wanted to be. To be interesting is to be noticed and to be noticed is dangerous...</p> <p><i>Milkman</i> is a tale of gossip and hearsay, silence and deliberate deafness. It is the story of inaction with enormous consequences.</p>
What the judges thought	"At turns frightening and inspirational, <i>Milkman</i> is stylistically utterly distinctive. At the intersection of class, race, gender and sexual violence, it deals with oppression and power with a Beckettian sense of humour, offering a wholly original take on Ireland in the time of the Troubles through the mind of a young girl. Genuinely experimental, its ability to move from the scene of public life into the intimate landscape of the mind, sometimes in a single sentence, is stunning."
Discussion points	<p>Although paramilitary and state violence are not directly shown in the novel, how is their presence felt?</p> <p>Do the issues that come up make you think of any other regimes or contemporary problems?</p> <p>How do you think the narrator disrupts the status quo?</p> <p>What do you think about the way women are treated in the novel?</p> <p>What do you think is the relevance of the fact that the main characters aren't named?</p>
Themed reading	<p>Lucy Caldwell <i>Where They Were Missed</i></p> <p>Roisín O'Donnell <i>Wild Quiet</i></p> <p>Jan Carson <i>Children's Children</i></p> <p>China Mieville <i>The City and the City</i></p>
Useful links	<p><a href="https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/may/31/milkman-anna-burns-review-northern-ireland">https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/may/31/milkman-anna-burns-review-northern-ireland</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/books/milkman-review-impressive-wordy-and-often-funny-1.3484139">https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/books/milkman-review-impressive-wordy-and-often-funny-1.3484139</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.telegraph.co.uk/books/what-to-read/milkman-anna-burns-review-viciously-funny-take-troubles/">https://www.telegraph.co.uk/books/what-to-read/milkman-anna-burns-review-viciously-funny-take-troubles/</a></p>