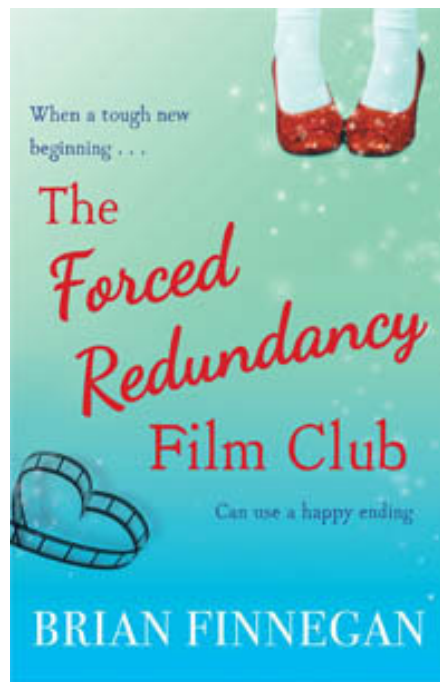




The Forced Redundancy Film Club

Brian Finnegan

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When five colleagues lose their jobs in a Dublin-based global corporation, they set up the Forced Redundancy Film Club, where they meet monthly to watch their favourite classic movies in each other's houses. This is a novel about unlikely friendship, coping with unexpected change, coming to terms with your past and facing new beginnings.

The Forced Redundancy Film Club Details

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Author : Brian Finnegan

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From Reader Review The Forced Redundancy Film Club for online ebook

Tom Galvin says

Pigeonholed into the 'chic lit' genre, Brian Finnegan's *The Forced Redundancy Club* should really be given more credit for capturing the zeitgeist of recession-era Ireland (and just about any country struggling under similar conditions) while managing to keep the reader entertained in what could have been a fairly grim plod through a group of people's misfortunes.

Instead Finnegan has shone a light on what will become a very dark, cold period in Ireland's history and has given it some much-needed warmth, and above all, humanity.

An escape? Possibly, but the device used is what gives the book its originality.

Finnegan uses the colour of the films chosen by his characters for the film club to highlight the monochrome world they inhabit as a result of their job loss.

It's a useful and innovative ploy which breaks up the story so well, and of course pays homage to the similar use of black and white versus colour in films such as the author's favourite, *The Wizard of Oz*. (Though amusingly, one character having watched the film wonders why Dorothy would trade the colour of Oz for the black and white of Kansas).

The films are essentially mirrors for the characters to view where they are in their own lives -- each one at a crossroads of sorts and the films they choose reflect this, finding if not solace and hope, at least empathy with the characters.

The five characters eventually find they are connected in more ways than their 'joblessness' and it is testament to Finnegan's narrative that he avoids a slide into a world where the job (or lack of one) is the sole driving force.

At heart, this book is about human relationships -- their curse, their wonder, frailty, complexities and necessities -- and how the bravest among us can crumble without the comfort of another.

It is also about solid friendship, which triumphs over the hardships which are so often beyond our control. And it is also about mortality, loss and regret and what it means to be simply human.

Finnegan is clearly a writer with soul, passion and sensitivity -- great qualities to have.

Brian Finnegan says

"Finnegan's novel, much like his decision to get on the popular-fiction dance floor, is smart or, as his publicist says, a "high-concept" debut. Efficiently tapping into the zeitgeist, Finnegan's novel focuses on a bunch of thirtysomething Dublin-based colleagues thrown to the lions of penury, boredom and sexual misadventure when they are made redundant from their high-spec office jobs and end up getting plastered in a local hostelry before forming an ad-hoc film club.

Finnegan, sure-footed and confident, creates a sturdy read..."

--Hilary Fannin - *The Irish Times*

The Forced Redundancy Film Club is a smart novel that contains just the right amount of comedy and tragedy to make it enjoyable for anyone to read. The film theme throughout, beginning quite aptly with Casablanca - "I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship" - and ending even more aptly with It's A Wonderful Life, is both original and effective. His novel gives the reader a cutting insight into the lives of five very typical Irish individuals, from exhausted mother of three to the spinster orphan with no social skills, and pulls it off perfectly.

The beauty of The Forced Redundancy Film Club is that it can - like all classic movies - be enjoyed, not specifically by just women or just men, but by anyone who loves a good story. -- Deirdre O'Brien, Entertainment.ie

'With his zeitgeist debut novel, Brian Finnegan brings us a warm, funny, touching, sexy, romantic, thoroughly enjoyable, brilliantly-plotted page-turner, whose faith in the redemptive power of our love offers a ray of sunshine for our gloomy times.' -- Adrienne Murphy, Hot Press

"A satirical observation on life in the midst of Recession 2012, The Forced Redundancy Film Club is set to become a cult classic." The Sligo Weekender.

Anne-marie says

Excellent book...hard to put down...

Karen says

3.5 stars

I enjoyed this book. It's in the 'chick lit' genre. While the story line is predictable, Brian has captured the difficulties faced by people during this recession, be it by oneself or one's partner and the emotions & difficulties involved. Big topics such as alcoholism and adoption are also dealt with very well.

I enjoyed this book and always looked forward to picking it up to find out what happened next. Not being a film buff, I enjoyed the analysis of the movies.

Jill says

I was a bit wary of reading 'The Forced Redundancy Film Club' by Brian Finnegan because of its cutesy title and story about five people's anguished lives. But it was surprisingly ok. The characters were all flawed but seemed fairly realistic and I was interested enough to follow their lives. And I loved their comments about the classic films they watched. A good escapist read.

Pat says

This is a desceptive book - on the surface an easy and indeed enjoyable read, under the surface it deals with a lot of human dilemmas as exemplified by the choice of films.

Kind Regards says

The Forced Redundancy Film Club is a warm, witty book with astute observations about life in recessionary post-Celtic Tiger Ireland. It's a page turner, making it a good holiday read, a good rainy day read and a GREAT "tired of hearing about recession/austerity measures/gloom and doom in the news" book. Thoroughly enjoyable and highly recommended.

Neens Bea says

So... 101 chapters, and a changing PoV each time. Not exactly my favourite type of book - had I known that, I probably would have given it a wide berth. I can't actually pinpoint what I liked about this novel, because there were so many aspects I didn't like. For instance, the characters are all a little underdeveloped and never jump off the page, and despite being put through the wringer by all the things that happen to them, they always seem very distanced to it all. Even when one of them, a mother, snaps due to the immense pressure she is under, the reader is never really given access to her thoughts and feelings. Also, the 11 films that the film club watches over the course of the year aren't really discussed in depth, and serves more as a gimmick to structure the novel and to ensure that these unlikely characters, who weren't friends to start with, will keep meeting each other. Oh, and why is virtually every single person in the book blonde?

Despite these flaws, and a somewhat abrupt ending (not to mention a bunch of missing words - does no one proofread books these days?), there is something about the novel that works, and it was difficult to put down. I just can't really tell you what that something is.

Andrew McClarnon says

We spend a year looking over the shoulders of five colleagues, caught up in Ireland's bail out recession, each of whom face a moment of truth in their lives, beyond the basic challenge of making a living. The film choices that bring them together mirror their challenges, even if they don't realise it themselves. Its told via snappy chapters that keep the stories moving and ensure we keep up with everybody. I am sure some of what makes Ireland Ireland comes through as well.

Stephen Kernohan says

Awesome read. Tears were shed, more than a few smiles and a few laughs too. The drama unfolds as the work colleagues loose their jobs in Irelands' recession. While drowning their sorrows in the pub they decide to form a film club of which the movie titles give the novel its chapter structure. This is clever, witty, informative and integral to the plot. Taking only two sittings to read it can be safely said that The Forced Redundancy Film Club is a real page turner, one of those memorable and heartwarming reads that will leave a lasting impression.

Candace says

I really didn't like this one. I thought that every character was grossly unlikable. I understand having flawed characters, but they should still be likable. I really only enjoyed the film discussion throughout the book. That's about it. Really disappointed.

As a side note, I don't know if it was just my version of the book, but some editing would have gone a long way. Lots of spelling errors, missing words, etc.

Dolores says

An easy, funny and great read. Loved the story line and when I can remember the story and can't put a book down then it ticks all my boxes and this book certainly did this.

Bev says

This one got me through a long night of insomnia & managed to make it bearable. Enjoyed the interweaving stories & has encouraged me to re watch some excellent films.

Kari says

Was confused about how I would rate this book. I have to be honest, for the first part of the book I was actually a bit..bored. I didn't connect with the characters and I found myself spending most of the time thinking about the fact that I miss Ireland. Lived there a long time ago. But, something happened after about 60% of the book (I use kindle so I always think in percentage :-)), I read the last part of the book in almost one sitting. I even have to admit that I got a bit teary-eyed and moved by how everything worked out. I still end up giving the book only 3 stars because I don't feel like the theme of finding inspiration from movies worked well in all the chapters, I also didn't really fall in love with the Main Couple (you'll know when you read it) and I feel like the author should have spent more time on the resolution part of the book. Everything got solved a bit too quick for my taste. BUT, if you are feeling overwhelmed by life at the moment and can't quite see how everything will be resolved then I do recommend reading this book, it will cheer you up.

Paula Phillips says

What would you do if the world around you was crumbling and you had just lost your job ? Would you start looking for a new one , accept the reality and move on , sit and dwell on the negative or would you start a club ?

One company Qwertec Solutions are letting their staff go one by one due to recession cut-backs , amongst those staff made redundant are five colleagues. Never really spending time together in the past, the five find themselves one night sharing a few rounds of beer and as the night winds down they start talking about E.T

and movies.

Meet Katherine, Marcus, Lisa, Jake and Alice - they used to all be employees of Qwertec Solutions, now together the five of them make up The Forced Redundancy Film Club where each of them take turns monthly showing a film of their choice and then of course pulling it to bits. Enjoy movies from Casablanca to Breakfast at Tiffany's , Wizard of Oz to Edward Scissorhands. Over the next year, these five will discover and learn what it means to have real friendships and that no matter what tragedy or problem they have going on in their lives they will always have each other and that the foundation of good friendships is strong even if it takes you a little bit longer to realise.

As a big movie fan, I really enjoyed this book as the majority of films featured I have seen plenty of times and it actually made me look at the films in a different light as well and go , oh I never thought of it like that.
