



CREATIVE:
Louise Phillips

The Poet's Corner

After raising her family, Louise Phillips started writing five years ago having completed a Creative Writing Class at Old Bawn Community College, facilitated by Eileen Casey, a local writer who has won a Hennessy writers award. Louise was then chosen as part of a small group of emerging new talent for workshops given by Dermot Bolger, then writer-in-residence for SDCC.

Since then, she has had many short stories and poems published, including 'Another Road' as part of the County Lines Anthology published by New Island.

In 2008, Louise was short-listed for the Molly Keane Memorial Award, and, in the same year, was a winner in the NWG awards. In 2009, she won the Jonathan

Swift award with her story 'Last Kiss', and in both 2010 and 2011, she was long listed for the RTÉ Guide/Penguin Short Story Competition. This year, she was one of the winning writers in the Irish Writers Centre Lonely Voice Platform, and won third place in the recent NewsFour Competition, adjudicated by Paul Howard (creator of Ross O'Carroll Kelly).

Louise has just completed her first novel, which is now ready for submission.

You can follow Louise on social media links, Twitter @120Socks, and Facebook @http://www.facebook.com/pages/Louise-Phillips She is also a very active blogger at her popular web site http://120socks.blogspot.com

The following excerpt from her prose piece 'Monkey & the Brain Eater' forms part of the current six part series running at The Country Library Tallaght.

Monkey and the Brain Eater (Excerpt)

A TOY monkey, faded, worn, has become her new best friend. She talks to it the way you or I might talk to one another; small talk, big talk, what the weather is like, normal stuff.

Yesterday she asked Monkey if he wanted some lunch. He didn't answer, he never does. He just sits there with that constant stupid grin on his face. I don't like him, ugly thing.

I can't remember when my mother stopped remembering, a while before the arthritis took hold, and soon after most of her grandchildren were old enough to start big school. She used to say she preferred children to adults. She used to say a lot of things.

Maybe her love of children explains why Monkey has become her new best friend. He doesn't ask anything of her, happy being her trusted companion, and has no care or wish for any of her old memories. She told me all about him today, just like she did the day before. Repeating things is part of the disease, the one I call the 'Brain Eater', because that is exactly what it does.

When things get lost, you miss them.

When friends, family members, loved ones die, you cry. A space replaces where you once seen them, held them, listened, laughed, or even fought. Who is this woman in my mother's space? Like Monkey she smiles at me often but, unlike him, she enjoys it when I make a fuss. But most times though, I dare not ask her who I am, I just tell her straight out, 'Mam it's me your daughter, Rachel.'

'Rachel,' she answers, repeating it over and over, the way people do when they try to recall a person or a place.

Lately when I visit, Monkey is always with us - watching - listening. No-one knows where he came from. A bit like the way I don't know now where she is gone.

Sometimes I can see her old self, the mother I remember from before, when she watches telly and laughs out loud at some stupid programme, or at tea time, sitting at the table with the other ladies as she blows her tea to cool it down. But it's in the garden that she really comes to life, instinctively breathing in familiar smells, as if each time she visits it, she gets a sense of home.....



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Weddings



Please join us for our annual

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2-6 pm

Complimentary admission



A host of exhibitors and samples from our Chef on the day!

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Tel: +353 1 629 0909 • Fax: +353 1 629 0919

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family BINGO

Sunday 23rd Oct

All Welcome
Fáilte Roimh Gach Duine

Scoil Santain Bingo
Avonmore Road, Tallaght
Sunday 23rd Oct, at 3.00pm
Cash / Raffle Prizes
Books €10 & Double Books €15

Bóthar na hAbhann Móire,
Tamhlacht, Dé Domhnach 23ú
Deireadh Fómhair,
Am: 3.00in

Airgead & Crannchur
Leabhair €10
Leabhair Dúbailte €15

