

James Mulhern

Novelist, poet, and short story writer

AWARDED · STARRED REVIEW

Kirkus Reviews
Best Book of 2019

for Give Them Unquiet Dreams

FEATURED TITLE

Give Them Unquiet Dreams

Novel · 2019

FEATURED TITLE

Molly Bonamici

Novel · 2016

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Novelist, poet, and short story writer

TOP HONOR

Kirkus Best Book of 2019

Give Them Unquiet Dreams

CREDENTIAL

Oxford University Writing Fellowship

Fully funded

CREDENTIAL

Pushcart Prize Nominee, 2017

Short fiction

CREDENTIAL

Aesthetica Creative Writing Award

Shortlisted 2021 · poetry

CREDENTIAL

Fish Short Story Prize

Longlisted

CREDENTIAL

200+ literary journal appearances

Fiction and poetry

James Mulhern is the author of two literary novels — Give Them Unquiet Dreams (2019), a Kirkus Reviews Best Book of 2019 and starred-review title, and Molly Bonamici (2016), which Kirkus Reviews praised for its “gleefully and wonderfully odd protagonist.” His work moves between Irish-Catholic Boston and Italian-American Revere, between the comic and the gothic, and between this world and what his narrators call “the second sight.”

His writing has appeared in literary journals more than two hundred times. He was nominated for a Pushcart Prize in 2017, longlisted for the Fish Short Story Prize, and shortlisted for the Aesthetica Creative Writing Award in 2021 for his poetry. He was awarded a fully funded writing fellowship to the University of Oxford. His novella A Prayer for Home (2016) was praised by The Missouri Review; his story collection Assumptions and Other Stories followed.

Mulhern brings to his fiction more than thirty-five years in publishing and education. He has served as a senior editor at Houghton Mifflin in Boston and at Clark Boardman Callaghan in New York, as Department Chair of English, as a College Board AP English consultant, and as an AP consultant for the National Math and Science Initiative. He is the founder of Silver Current Press and the 2601 Literary Salon.

He lives in Philadelphia, where he writes, teaches, and edits manuscripts.

SHORT BIO
FOR PRESS USE

James Mulhern is the author of Give Them Unquiet Dreams (Kirkus Reviews Best Book of 2019, starred review) and Molly Bonamici (Kirkus: “a gleefully and wonderfully odd protagonist”). His work has appeared in literary journals over two hundred times. He held a fully funded writing fellowship at Oxford, was nominated for a Pushcart Prize, and was shortlisted for the Aesthetica Creative Writing Award. He lives in Philadelphia.

Give Them Unquiet Dreams

Silver Current Press · 258 pages · ISBN 978-1-0822-4062-1

AWARDED

KIRKUS REVIEWS BEST BOOK OF 2019

Kirkus Starred Review · Readers' Favorite · Notable Best Indie Book of 2019 · Wishing Shelf Red Ribbon (UK)

SYNOPSIS

Set in 1970s Irish-Catholic Boston, *Give Them Unquiet Dreams* follows fourteen-year-old Aiden Glencar, a gay boy with the “second sight”, as he tries to free his mother from a psychiatric institute, navigates his domineering and occasionally kleptomaniacal grandmother, and confers nightly with the spirit of his dead grandfather. A lyric, comic, and gothic family novel in the lineage of James Joyce’s *The Dead* and Yeats’s *The Stolen Child* — about grief, faith, queerness, and the porousness of past, present, and future.

CRITICAL PRAISE

“*A luminous, beautifully told fairy tale grounded in history and elevated by spirit.*”

KIRKUS REVIEWS · STARRED REVIEW

“*The quieter scenes show the mind of a talented writer at work... Mulhern demonstrates considerable powers of description, particularly when portraying his saddest characters.*”

KIRKUS REVIEWS

“*Give Them Unquiet Dreams is brilliant; it's most highly recommended.*”

JACK MAGNUS · READERS' FAVORITE

“*Mulhern's writing displays all of the storytelling prowess of the contemporary Irish masters, yet manages to blend it in exquisitely with the use of modern day American settings.*”

THE GALWAY REVIEW

Molly Bonamici

Silver Current Press · 258 pages · ISBN 978-1-5238-0780-2

KIRKUS REVIEWS

“A gleefully and wonderfully odd protagonist eases readers into a bare-bones plot.”

SYNOPSIS

Set in 1980 Revere, Massachusetts, *Molly Bonamici* follows a precocious, deadpan, atheist teenage girl through an Italian-American working-class family in which her beloved grandmother Nonna is gradually revealed to be a quiet serial murderer. A literary novel in the lineage of Flannery O'Connor's grandmothers, Shirley Jackson's *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*, and Elena Ferrante's Neapolitan family novels — structured around Dante's *Inferno*, an Emily Dickinson frame, and an inversion of Chopin's *The Awakening*.

CRITICAL PRAISE

“*The writing is elevated by a liberal use of quotes and sayings ranging from Bible verses to Thoreau and Yeats, grounding the various players' cultural context.*

KIRKUS REVIEWS

“*Molly's distinctiveness is an appealing quality and often amusing.*

KIRKUS REVIEWS

Verified press file

Every link below leads to a verified, currently live review or editorial mention. All entries have been confirmed within the past week.

GIVE THEM UNQUIET DREAMS

KIRKUSREVIEWS.COM

Kirkus Reviews · Starred Review & Best Book of 2019

“A luminous, beautifully told fairy tale grounded in history and elevated by spirit.”

<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/james-mulhern/give-them-unquiet-dreams/>

READERSFAVORITE.COM

Readers' Favorite · Reviewed by Jack Magnus

“Give Them Unquiet Dreams is brilliant; it's most highly recommended.”

<https://readersfavorite.com/book-review/give-them-unquiet-dreams>

THEGALWAYREVIEW.COM

The Galway Review · Editorial Note

Author feature noting Give Them Unquiet Dreams as a Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year.

<https://thegalwayreview.com/2022/10/15/james-mulhern-a-perfect-hit/>

MOLLY BONAMICI

KIRKUSREVIEWS.COM

Kirkus Reviews

“A gleefully and wonderfully odd protagonist eases readers into a bare-bones plot.”

<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/james-mulhern/molly-bonamici/>

For press, agents, and editors

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LOCATION Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

IMPRINT Silver Current Press

RIGHTS World rights available for both novels. Reissue inquiries welcome.

AVAILABLE Reading copies, interviews, panel appearances, manuscript materials on request.

“Like Thoreau, I believe time is merely a stream we swim in. Someday the current of water will slip away, taking us with it, but the sandy bottom, eternity, will remain.”

— FROM GIVE THEM UNQUIET DREAMS