



## Spill Simmer Falter Wither

By Sara Baume

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**Spill Simmer Falter Wither** By Sara Baume

**A debut novel already praised as "unbearably poignant and beautifully told" (Eimear McBride) this captivating story follows — over the course of four seasons — a misfit man who adopts a misfit dog.**

It is springtime, and two outcasts — a man ignored, even shunned by his village, and the one-eyed dog he takes into his quiet, tightly shuttered life — find each other, by accident or fate, and forge an unlikely connection. As their friendship grows, their small, seaside town suddenly takes note of them, falsely perceiving menace where there is only mishap; the unlikely duo must take to the road.

Gorgeously written in poetic and mesmerizing prose, *Spill Simmer Falter Wither* has already garnered wild support in its native Ireland, where the *Irish Times* pointed to Baume's "astonishing power with language" and praised it as "a novel bursting with brio, braggadocio and bite." It is also a moving depiction of how — over the four seasons echoed in the title — a relationship between fellow damaged creatures can bring them both comfort. One of those rare stories that utterly, completely imagines its way into a life most of us would never see, it transforms us not only in our understanding of the world, but also of ourselves.

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## Spill Simmer Falter Wither By Sara Baume Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #109120 in Books
- Published on: 2016-03-08
- Released on: 2016-03-08
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x 1.03" w x 5.50" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 288 pages

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A solitary misfit opens up to his one-eyed dog in this debut novel. Ray describes himself as old (he's 57), shabbily dressed, and sketchily bearded, pitching and clomping when he walks. He first sees the dog in an animal shelter advertisement: a grisly photo of a mangled canine face. The kennel keeper says the dog attacks other dogs; its scars suggest it was used for badger hunting. Ray is familiar with abuse: his father, understanding Ray is "not right-minded," raised him in confined isolation. Ray reads, drives, and knows he's not a regular person. Following his father's death, he remains in his father's house alone until he adopts the dog he calls One Eye. When One Eye attacks another dog, incurring the owner's wrath, Ray takes One Eye on the road, traveling from one Irish village to another, sleeping in the car. By the time they return home, they have spent a year together, and their friendship is fixed. Baume's storytelling can be indirect. She never mentions Ray's name, only that he's named for a sunbeam or a sand shark. Nor does she specify Ray's impairment. As a narrator, he shows observation skills, appreciation for landscape, and awareness of fear and sadness. For One Eye, he's full of empathy. Baume's debut is notable for its rhythmic language, sensory imagery (especially visuals and smells), and second-person narrative directed at an animal. She is brutal detailing brutality, lyrical contemplating land and sea, and at her best evoking the connection between man and dog. (Mar.)

Review

**Winner of the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature for 2015**

**Winner of the Sunday Independent Newcomer of the Year Award (Bord Gáis Energy Irish Book Awards 2015)**

**Winner of the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize?**

**Finalist for the LA Times Book Prize—Art Seidenbaum Award for First Fiction**

**Short-listed for the Costa First Novel Award**

**Long-listed for the Desmond Elliott Prize**

**Long-listed for The Guardian First Book Award 2015, A Readers' Choice**

**Long-listed for the Warwick Prize for Writing 2015**

**Long-listed for 2015 Edinburgh First Novel Award**

**?Nominated for the International Dublin Literary Award 2017**

**One of NPR's "Best Books of 2016"**

**One of the Wall Street Journal's "Best Books of 2016"**

**Barnes & Noble Spring 2016 Discover Great New Writers**

**March 2016 Indie Next Pick**

**2016 Winter/Spring Indies Introduce Pick**

"A tour de force.... No writer since JM Coetzee or Cormac McCarthy has written about an animal with such intensity. This is a novel bursting with brio, braggadocio and bite. Again and again it wows you with its ambition...At its heart is a touching and inspiriting sense of empathy, that rarest but most human of traits. Boundaries melt, other hearts become knowable...This book is a stunning and wonderful achievement by a writer touched by greatness."—Joseph O'Connor, for *The Irish Times*

"This book is like a flame in daylight: beautiful and unexpected. It packs a big effect for something that seems so slight, and almost hard to see."—Anne Enright

“Unbearably poignant and beautifully told.”—Eimear McBride, author of *A Girl is a Half-formed Thing*

“For language that sounds like music, there’s Sara Baume’s *Spill Simmer Falter Wither*, about a lonely Irish outcast and his one-eyed rescue dog.”—Anne Tyler, *New York Times Book Review*, “The Year in Reading”

“A deeply attuned portrait of the human mind...An unsettling literary surprise of the best sort. This first novel’s voice is singular in its humility and imaginative range...Baume’s novel revels in aesthetic leaps and dives, embracing the poetry of sensory experience in all its baffling beauty from the title onward...Baume’s prose makes sure we look and listen. Her book insists we take notice.”—*The Atlantic*

“[Baume] has a way with words...As you sink into the rhythms of Baume’s prose, you can almost smell the salt air and feel the sting of a small town that can be unforgiving to those who are different.”—NPR, “Best Books of 2016”

“Lonely man adopts unloved dog and both their lives are changed: You’ve heard this story before, but you’ve never seen it described with such transfiguring beauty and intensity. Sara Baume does with language what the dog does for her wayward loner of a hero: She makes the world appear new.”—*Wall Street Journal*, “The 20 Books That Defined Our Year – The Best Fiction and Nonfiction of 2016”

“Extraordinary . . . *Spill Simmer Falter Wither* is a heartbreaking read, and heralds Baume as a major new talent.”—*Independent on Sunday*

“A deft and moving debut...To capture this constrained setting and quiet character requires specific skills, which Baume has in spades...It’s not easy to tell such a sparse tale, to be so economic with story, but the book hums with its own distinctiveness, presenting in singing prose an unforgettable landscape peopled by two unlikely Beckettian wanderers, where hope is not yet lost.”—*The Guardian*

“A man-and-his-dog story like no other.”—*San Francisco Chronicle*, “Recommendations from Book Passage”

“[A] lovely book...destined to become a small classic of animal communion literature.”—*Wall Street Journal*

“Captivating...Rich with incident and gorgeously depicted through Baume’s precise, lapidary prose...[Baume] displays wisdom beyond her years in this compassionate tale.”—*BookPage*

“[Baume’s] rhythmic, intimate prose abounds with startling sights, smells and sounds...[Her] sympathy for her ‘wonkety’ characters is infectious and their relationship – in all its drama and ordinariness – beautifully conveyed. Places and smells, plants and animals are conjured with loving attention, the narrative propelled by a striking linguistic intensity...Baume’s capacity for wonder turns this portrait of an unusual friendship into a powerful meditation on humanity.”—*New Statesman*

“Sara Baume is a novelist to watch.”—*Daily Mail*

“Ambitious and impressive . . . Baume’s engaging, intriguing and brightly original first novel may mark a comparably significant debut.”—*Times Literary Supplement*

“Told in splendid prose, with lyrical descriptions of the landscape, it’s an involving story and possibly the best first novel to emerge from Ireland since Eimear McBride’s debut.”—*The Herald UK*

"One of the most quietly devastating books of the year...With *Spill Simmer Falter Wither* she has created a dark, tender portrait of what it's like to live life on the margins."—*Sydney Morning Herald*

"[A] joltingly original debut ... Baume charts the growing dependency between these two stray souls with remarkable deftness and almost unbearable poignancy."—*Mail on Sunday* UK

"Sara Baume's exquisite debut has a simple plot: an outcast man and his dog One Eye take to the road in a ramshackle car and watch the world, weather and seasons change as they drive through the highways and byways of Ireland. But the prose is full of wonder, inventive, poetic and dazzling, concerned with the smallest detail of the natural landscape and the terrain of human emotion, as Baume heartbreakingly describes how an ordinary life can falter and stall."—*Sunday Express* UK, "The best books about memories, misfits and mysteries"

"[A] fine debut...Baume succeeds in reawakening her reader's capacity for wonder...so much so that the book and its one-eyed dog became companions I was loathe to leave."—*Observer (The Guardian)*

"A mesmerising debut."—*Telegraph*, Featured at #8 in the "Autumn Arts Preview"

"Every so often a book comes along that is so perfect it takes your breath away, and leaves your heart hammering with the beauty of the writing and the sadness of the story. Sara Baume's debut, *Spill Simmer Falter Wither*, is such a book...Baume's prose is full of wonder – inventive, poetic and dazzling, concerned with the smallest details of the natural landscape and the terrains of human emotion. Absolutely astounding."—*Psychologies*, "Book of the Month"

"A vivid debut that shows that Baume is a talent to keep an eye on...a sweepingly poetic and heartbreaking meditation on life after grief that I won't quickly forget."—*Times Educational Supplement*

"An important and quite brilliant new Irish writing talent."—*Irish Independent*

"An ambitious stylist with an astonishing eye for detail and a clear passion for language. But it is the beautifully measured control of plot and the authenticity of the narrative voice that most impresses."—*Irish Examiner*

"A subtle and powerful story about a man and his dog ... Baume is in terrific control of her prose ... her portrayal of her characters and her setting leap off the page ... I look forward to whatever she writes next."—*Big Issue* UK

"A touching tale about a misfit man finding a misfit dog provides lots of opportunity for exploring what it is to be lonely and outcast, what friendship means, the nature of family."—*Western Morning News* (UK), "Best books to curl up with"

"A quietly wonderful book."—*Good Housekeeping* UK

"In a relentlessly inventive language that, it seems, can maneuver anywhere and describe anything, Baume's story of a man and his dog examines and elegizes the myriad strange, ramshackle, and ephemeral worlds locked deep inside the world. An exceptional, startling, and original book."—Colin Barrett, author of *Young Skins*

"Powerful, heartbreaking, told with great control. The writing is superb . . . I had an image of all language

standing to attention, eager to serve this writer.” —Mary Costello, author of *Academy Street*

“Touching and weird and sometimes comical and sometimes heartbreakin... Sad, Solid, Fragile, Witty.” —Kjersti Skomsvold, author of *The Faster I Walk, the Smaller I Am*

“Elegant, heartbreakin, and inspiring. . . The lyric, lilting style of Baume’s voice will endear even animal non-lovers to her thrilling and transformative story. With echoes of Mark Haddon’s narrative style and a healthy dose of empathy for the lost and lonely among us, *Spill Simmer Falter Wither* is a superlative first novel.” —*Booklist*, starred review

“The second novel by the award-winning author of *Spill Simmer Falter Wither* is as tender and luminous as her debut.” —*Mail on Sunday*

“Baume’s sophomore effort is a masterclass in the power of prose . . . A brilliant work that will likely resonate with anyone who’s ever felt a little lost in their twenties and beyond.” —*The Herald*

“This tour-de-force follow-up to *Spill Simmer Falter Wither* is a celebration of the extraordinary in the everyday, and Baume’s prose elevates the ordinary and finds inspiration in the strange.” —*Irish Times*

“This is an extraordinarily compelling novel in which nothing really happens but everything changes . . . What makes it so gripping is that the reader is trapped in Frankie’s mind as much as she is; every tiny detail is magnified into metaphysical significance that she cannot understand and that the reader cannot parse . . . Almost every page has a sentence or an observation that made me wish I had a commonplace book to transcribe Frankie’s - or Baume’s - precisely opaque and fleeting thoughts.” —*Spectator*

“[Baume’s] vivid apprehension of the natural world connects to her appreciation of artworks and her mapping of the psyche, a sensibility that puts her in company with writers such as Melissa Harrison, Helen Macdonald and Olivia Laing . . . [A Line Made by Walking] is a piece of raw invention.” —*Guardian*

“Baume’s mixing of the visual arts and fiction is as satisfying as Ali Smith’s . . . [A Line Made by Walking] is, beautifully, about finding accommodation with the ordinary . . . [Baume] deserves to feel wholly satisfied with this raw-nerved and wonderful novel.” —*New Statesman*

“Baume has once again proven that even the smallest lives can unveil the biggest truths . . . A Line Made by Walking may be a very sad, very quiet book, but it is an inexplicably powerful work of art.” —*Irish Independent*

From the Inside Flap

Extraordinary . . . A heartbreakin read, and heralds Baume as a major new talent. —*Independent on Sunday*

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Gorgeously written in poetic, mesmerizing prose, *Spill Simmer Falter Wither* has garnered wild support in its native Ireland, where the *Irish Times* pointed to Baume’s astonishing power with language and praised it as a novel bursting with brio, braggadocio, and bite.

A moving depiction of how a relationship between fellow injured creatures can bring comfort to each, this is also a celebration of the wonders of this earth that will leave you breathless with hope and expanded in spirit. One of those rare stories that utterly, completely imagines its way into a life most of us would never see, it transforms us not only in our understanding of the world, but also of ourselves.

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## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### **Hallie Cathey:**

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children until eventually adult are different content. To be sure that book is very important for people. The book Spill Simmer Falter Wither has been making you to know about other know-how and of course you can take more information. It is extremely advantages for you. The e-book Spill Simmer Falter Wither is not only giving you much more new information but also to be your friend when you sense bored. You can spend your own spend time to read your publication. Try to make relationship with the book Spill Simmer Falter Wither. You never truly feel lose out for everything in the event you read some books.

#### **Daniel Guy:**

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#### **Katie McCants:**

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with pals is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition info. Even you love Spill Simmer Falter Wither, you can enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still need to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't buy it, oh come on its called reading friends.

#### **Maria Simmons:**

Many people spending their time frame by playing outside having friends, fun activity together with family or just watching TV all day long. You can have new activity to spend your whole day by reading through a book. Ugh, do you consider reading a book really can hard because you have to use the book everywhere? It ok you can have the e-book, delivering everywhere you want in your Cell phone. Like Spill Simmer Falter Wither which is keeping the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's notice.

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