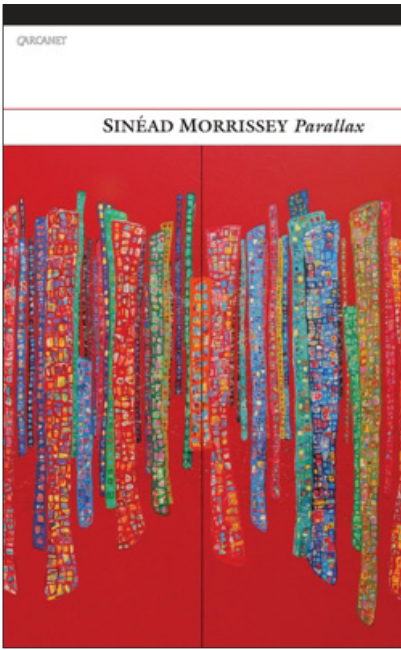


Reading Group Guide



Parallax

by Sinéad Morrissey

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72 pages

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**Shortlisted for the 2013 Forward Prize
for Best Collection**

In *Parallax* Sinéad Morrissey documents what is caught, and what is lost, when houses and cityscapes, servants and saboteurs ('the different people who lived in sepia') are arrested in time by photography (or poetry), subjected to the authority of a particular perspective. Assured and disquieting, Morrissey's poems explore the paradoxes in what is seen, read and misread in the surfaces of the presented world.

Possible Topics for Discussion

- Consider the poems in which Morrissey uses a persona, and the poems in which she appears to write as herself. Is one technique more striking than the other?
- Consider the poem 'Photographing Lowry's House': who or what are the poem's subjects, and to what extent could you say this poem is sympathetic to them?
- What role does doubt play in this book? What role does comfort play?
- Morrissey does not use rhyme in any straightforward way. Does she use it in other ways? If so, how and to what effect?
- What do you think of the ways Morrissey ends her poems? What do you think of the way she ends the book?
- To what extent is this a funny book? To what extent is it a *darkly* funny book?