



## A Secret Map of Ireland

*Rosita Boland*

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## **A Secret Map of Ireland** Rosita Boland

“an essential book for anyone visiting Ireland. It is even more essential for those of us who live in Ireland and think we know it. It is full of rare and fascinating detail...”

-Colm Tóibín, Brooklyn

Tour all 32 counties of Ireland - from a decidedly unusual perspective!

When Rosita Boland was a schoolgirl she had? in common with all Irish children? a map of Ireland. Iconic in its pinks, greens and yellows, the Educational Company map was a staple of the Irish schoolhouse. As the author matured and changed, so did the unique country she grew to know first-hand. With deep affection and curiosity, she followed her very own map from those by-gone schooldays on a tour of Ireland, a tour like no other.

“An engaging journalist and an award-winning fiction writer, Rosita Boland is, in her own words, ‘ready for a reading of whatever lay ahead’. Her readers should respond to this invitation.” -The Irish Times

In 32 colorful essays, Rosita visits each of the counties on the island and brings back tales so unusual that they could only be ‘of Ireland’. This is not your ordinary travel guide!

From the monkey who crash-landed in Cork with an American B-17 Flying Fortress en route from Marrakesh to England, to the preserved arm of bare-knuckle boxer Dan Donnelly in Kildare; from the barely habited islands of Mayo’s Clew Bay to the Tayto factory of dreams in Armagh, this delightful book provides a most unusual, and engaging, exploration of a mad and marvelous land.

Rosita Boland is a staff journalist at The Irish Times, and is also the author of two books of poetry. She was a 2009 Fellow at the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University. Born in Co. Clare, Rosita lives in Dublin.

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