

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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Laois author publishes first book

LAOIS author Geraldine Meade recently released her first ever book, entitled 'Flick'. Aimed at teenagers, the book tells the story of Felicity Costello - aka Flick - who is pretty much like any other sixteen-year-old - except for one difference, and this is difference she doesn't want anyone else to know about.

Originally from Ringstown, Geraldine now lives in Dublin with her husband Johnny and their six children. She is a primary school teacher in St Patrick's School in Drumcondra, but as well as this the author completed an MA in Children's Literature in 1999-2001 then worked part-time as a lecturer in St. Patrick's College before joining the Primary Curriculum Support Programme and becoming an English and Visual Arts Cuiditheoir (advisor).

Geraldine joined Children's Books Ireland (CBI) in 2001 and went on to edit their Chalk Talk magazine in 2002. She was Chairperson of CBI

in 2003-2006, after which she decided to focus on her writing and began to work on it full-time as well as looking after her children.

Published by Little Island, 'Flick' is a brave and important first novel which tells the story of a girl torn apart by pressure to conform to what her peers think is normal. Geraldine Meade fearlessly explores a teenage girl's dark journey as Flick struggles to resolve a conflict within herself that seems insurmountable through her own eyes and which she feels would shame her in the eyes of others.

Flick's reckless behaviour and its inevitable consequences as she struggles with the secret of her sexuality is all too true to life for so many teenagers. Meade has created an inspiring character who, instead of succumbing to darkness, finds the courage to realise that you can't help who you fall in love with. 'Flick' is available now from all good bookshops.



Laois author Geraldine Meade