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Felicia's Journey

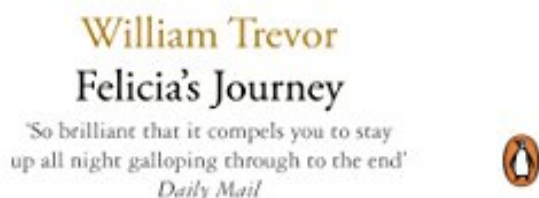


Par William Trevor
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Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurFelicia's Journey - A tightly woven psychological thriller by acclaimed writer William Trevor'A book so brilliant that it compels you to stay up all night galloping through to the end' Daily MailWinner of the Whitbread Book of the Year Award and Sunday Express Book of the Year Award'You're beautiful,' Johnny told her. So, full of hope, seventeen-year-old Felicia crosses the Irish Sea to England to find her lover and tell him she is pregnant. Desperately searching for Johnny in the bleak post-industrial Midlands, she is instead found by Mr Hilditch, a strange and lonely man, a collector and befriender of homeless young girls . . . 'Immensely readable. The plot twist is both sinister and affecting, and so skilfully done that you remember why authors had plot twists in the first place' Philip Hensher, Guardian'A

masterpiece. You read and are dazzled. It has one of the most memorable and convincing, most sinister and terrifying of characters created in the modern novel' Susan Hill Readers of *The Story of Lucy Gault* and *Love and Summer* will adore *Felicia's Journey*. It will also be cherished by readers of Colm Toibin and William Boyd. William Trevor was born in Mitchelstown, County Cork. He has written eighteen novels and novellas, and hundreds of short stories, for which he has won a number of prizes including the Hawthornden Prize, the

Yorkshire Post Book of the Year Award, the Whitbread Book of the Year Award and the David Cohen Literature Prize in recognition of a lifetime's literary achievement. In 2002 he was knighted for his services to literature. His books in Penguin are: *After Rain*; *A Bit on the Side*; *Bodily Secrets*; *Cheating at Canasta*; *The Children of Dynmouth*; *The Collected Stories (Volumes One and Two)*; *Death in Summer*; *Felicia's Journey*; *Fools of Fortune*; *The Hill Bachelors*; *Love and Summer*; *The Mark-2 Wife*; *Selected Stories*; *The Story of Lucy Gault* and *Two Lives*.com *Felicia's Journey* is a simple tale told with a subtle complexity.

Felicia is an Irish country girl who has come to England to look for her jilted lover. Hilditch is a mild-mannered, gentle psychopath who lures the helpless Felicia into his trap. Interestingly, we see the story from each character's eyes when they are separate, but from Hilditch's view when they are together. It is an unusual and effective device that distorts the perspective and adds texture to a classic story. Trevor won a

Whitbread Prize in 1994 for *Felicia's Journey*. From Publishers Weekly Trevor, long admired for his trenchant stories and novels, his subtle humor and broad compassion, retains all those virtues in his deeply absorbing new novel and adds a degree of narrative tension he has not shown before. Felicia is a poor, plain, rather simple Irish girl made pregnant by the first boy to bed her, who then promptly disappears to England,

leaving no address. When she abandons her taciturn family to look for him, her only thought is to be reunited with a lover. But she meets portly, self-delighted Mr. Hilditch, catering manager at a factory in the grimy English Midlands, who shows her unexpected kindness, even helps arrange an abortion for her; after all, he's been a good friend to so many other lost girls, hasn't he? Wary of him at first, then resigned, finally increasingly anxious as she wonders what became of his other friends, Felicia picks her numb way among psychological minefields. What happens to her and to Mr. Hilditch, in the brilliantly evoked setting of dank cafes and pubs, homeless wanderers, revivalists and bus trips to stately homes, is the stuff of nightmare; not cynically created, but one born of deep understanding and piercing truth. This is a thriller lifted to the level of high art, and it should win Trevor many new admirers. BOMC selection. Copyright 1994 Reed Business

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