



Hitching for Hope

A Journey into the Heart and Soul of Ireland

Ruairí McKiernan

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Black-and-white illustrations

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“ [McKiernan] sticks his thumb out, and somehow a healthy dose of humanity manages to roll up alongside him . . . This book is a paean to nuance, decency, and possibility.”

—**COLUM McCANN**, author of *Let the Great World Spin*; co-founder of Narrative 4

An anticipated *Irish Times* bestseller, *Hitching for Hope* is an inspirational manifesto for human resilience in challenging times

In the wake of a crippling recession in his native Ireland, social activist Ruairí McKiernan questioned whether he should remain in the country he loves or join the mounting number of emigrants searching for greater opportunity elsewhere. In a last-ditch attempt to connect with his home, McKiernan embarked on a hitchhiking odyssey, seeking to give voice to a people emerging from one of the most painful periods of economic and social turmoil in Ireland’s history.

Hitching for Hope is the tale of McKiernan’s search for answers told through countless conversations with strangers and interspersed with his own storytelling and reflections. Engaging, provocative, and sincere, McKiernan recounts a pilgrimage both deeply personal and explicitly political. “This isn’t just my story to share,” he writes. “It is the story of the people trying to make sense of life, to hold on, and to have hope during troubled times.”

McKiernan will launch *Hitching for Hope* with a hitchhiking tour around Ireland this spring, followed by US-based events in June.

To request a review copy or author interview, please contact: Christina Butt (802) 295-6300 ext. 127, or cbutt@chelseagreen.com

Author Availability: Ireland, United Kingdom, or by phone or arrangement



Ruairí McKiernan is a renowned social campaigner, Fulbright scholar, TEDx speaker, and former member of Ireland’s Council of State. He is currently the European Director of Narrative 4, a global non-profit based in NYC co-founded by acclaimed Irish author Colum McCann, which promotes empathy through storytelling. McKiernan is also the host of the popular *Love and Courage* podcast, founder of the pioneering SpunOut.ie national youth organization, and was named by the Ashoka social entrepreneurs’ foundation as one of the top 10 changemakers in Ireland.

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