



Last Orders

Caimh McDonnell

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As a wise man once said, just because you're done with the past, doesn't mean the past is done with you.

Paul can't let an incident from his past go. When he finds out a rival detective agency played a key role in it, he drags MCM Investigations into a blood feud that they can't hope to win. Soon they're faced with the prospect of the company going out of business and Brigit going out of her damn mind.

When long-buried bodies are discovered in the Wicklow Mountains, Bunny's past starts closing in on him too. Who can he trust when he can't even trust himself? When he finds himself with nowhere left to run and nobody he can turn to, will the big fella make the ultimate sacrifice to protect the ones he loves?

When all that's left is the fall, the fall is everything.

And even the mighty fall.

Last Orders is the thrilling conclusion of the critically acclaimed Dublin Trilogy, which melds fast-paced action with a distinctly Irish acerbic wit. It's best enjoyed having read the other books in the series, particularly the prequel *Angels in the Moonlight*.

Last Orders Details

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Author : Caimh McDonnell

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Brenda says

I have really enjoyed reading this series, and I honestly am sad that this is the final book of the trilogy. Yeah, yeah, there's that prequel. So out with "trilogy" and in with "series." This is the fourth book in the series, and I loved it. All the things that made the previous books so enjoyable are present in this book: characters who are now my friends, great storyline, and humor.

The first chapter devastated me. I read the rest of the book waiting for an explanation. MCM Investigations is being sued, and things are not looking good legally. Brigit, Paul and Phil try desperately to save their business. Bunny, however, seems to have lost his sanity. He's seeing ghosts and talking to them. There are some chapters that veer off into the ridiculous, but I just can't take any stars away for that. By the end, this book wraps up the events of the previous books, including that prequel.

But wait, what's that I see after the Acknowledgements? "Coming in September 2018" "Disaster Inc" Yes! Another book! I can't find anything at Goodreads or Amazon or at Caimh McDonnell's website about this book, but it is mentioned on his Facebook page. I'm not sad now!

Whispering Stories says

Book Reviewed by Abby on www.whisperingstories.com

Here it is. The last book of Caimh McDonnell's 'Dublin Trilogy' (although this is technically book four!).

What a trilogy it has been. Non-spoiler alert: if you've not read the first three novels – 'A Man With One Of Those Faces', 'The Day That Never Comes' and 'Angels In The Moonlight' – I strongly urge you do first. While not technically a prerequisite for reading Last Orders, I would recommend: 1) because the writing and story throughout is hilarious, original and captivating, and 2) because it will make the prologue much more shocking.

From the cover alone, it's another non-spoiler alert that we begin with Bunny McGarry's funeral. The inimitable Bunny. One of the best anti-heroes I have ever had the pleasure of reading. For me, it's Bunny who has particularly kept me coming back to the Dublin Trilogy. He's at once predictable and shocking. Tragic and comic. Caring and intimidating. So to begin with his funeral in the prologue was a gut-wrenching moment: "Alongside the coffin, which was draped in a jersey with a hurley lying across it, a massive wreath of flowers spelt out his name. Bunny."

After reading the previous three stories, it's not a complete surprise that we begin here. After all the adventures and misadventures we've followed Bunny on, the fact that his actions have resulted in his death is in many ways inevitable.

And for those who have not (yet!) read the previous novels, when you begin to read Last Orders and learn about Bunny's past catching up with him, it's not a shock either...

Enough about Bunny (for now) – what about Paul, Brigit, Phil and Maggie the dog? Chapter One and we

catch up with the gang in the midst of a private detective agency war, 22 days before the funeral. Their MCM Investigations are in a bitter battle of one-upmanship against the Kelleher brothers, who, as it transpires, were the ones behind Paul's stag do gone wrong, resulting in the end of his relationship with Brigit.

Back with Bunny, and he's as certain as we are that his days are numbered. Why? He's hallucinating, seeing and hearing visions of a man who claims he was killed by Bunny eighteen years ago. A man whose body has just been discovered by the Gardai: "And just because I'm not real, it doesn't mean I'm not a problem". He's also seeing Gringo, his Gardai partner who was killed, funnily enough, eighteen years ago too. Although, when you consider how Bunny was tortured in *The Day That Never Comes* and the events of the prequel *Angels In The Moonlight*, the hallucinations are not so surprising, a symptom of post-traumatic stress to highlight just be his past suddenly catching up on him.

Instead of the tough, often inebriated, thuggish Bunny we're used to, we're seeing his sentimental side – although the inebriation and thuggish attitude are still generally present and unpleasant. He ensures that, if anything happens to him, his beloved St Jude's hurling team will be OK. He helps Paul and Brigit see beyond their stubborn attitudes towards each other and realise they are still clearly in love. And when Paul and Brigit start to solve their problems and move their focus onto helping Bunny, could it be too little too late?

The beauty of McDonnell's plots throughout the Dublin Trilogy is that they are never what they seem. *Last Orders* is no exception. From Maggie the dog's timely flatulence to elaborate honey traps, the MCM Investigation team's actions are constantly funny, providing a well-needed antidote to Bunny's internal struggles. With an ending promising suspense, cunning and wit, *Last Orders* is the perfect ending to McDonnell's trilogy. Here's hoping that we'll be seeing some of our favourite investigation team again soon...

Mary Lou says

Even though my stock of compliments has already been exhausted in praising the Dublin Trilogy books so far, unfortunately Caimh McDonnell has come up with another winner in *Last Orders*.

All I need to say is I loved it and everyone who reads it will too.

The PI agency continues but business is bad, mostly due to the distraction of a turf war with a rival agency. Paul and Brigit are at odds, and Bunny hasn't completely recovered from his exploits in the previous book. (they need to be read in sequence, despite the very useful aides memoires provided). A series of coincidences provides an opportunity to finalise events of twenty years previous.

Caimh McDonnell skilfully re-introduces his characters, and it feels like catching up with friends you haven't seen for a while (Maggie the German Shepherd still playing an important part.)

Last Orders feels as fresh as *A Man with One of Those Faces* and the slapstick and Dublin repartee continues to entertain as much as ever. Brexit is *The Brexit* for me from now on even if Andrew Marr might not get it. As a bonus, D I Jimmy Stewart, whose loss I mourned in the review of *A Man with One of those Faces*, made a much appreciated if fleeting appearance.

I remain content in the prospect of more to come from Mr McDonnell.

Lindsay says

I loved this book, I rate this more as a comedy than crime due to the amount of times I laughed out loud at the characters and how they handled the situations they found themselves in!

Paul is on a quest for payback on a rival detective agency that put him on the outs with Bridget, Phil is due to be a father any day and is struggling with this poor lamb. Bridget is trying to cover damage control and stop this vendetta from ruining their detective agency.

Bunny hasn't been the same since he was kidnapped and has descended into madness. Paul shirking his detective work asks Bunny to cover for him landing the company in a mess and legal problems that loses him his job.

Bunny fearing the end after two bodies have been found in the mountains is trying to protect his friends.

This book is as entertaining as the others and I loved it, need more these books cheer me up no end.

I received this book as an ARC but I'll still buy too this series is just that good!

Kahn says

And so, in the finest of traditions, we reach the fourth part of The Dublin Trilogy.

Yes, I know the author has put Angels In The Moonlight outside of the main three, but he's fooling no one here. This is Book 4.

And what a Book 4 it is.

There's a clue on the cover, and we start with Bunny's funeral — which is an emotional punch right out of the gate. This is a character we have come to love, and we start by saying goodbye.

I won't deny, there's a lump in the throat.

From here, we go back to the events that have led here. And it really helps if you've read all the other books first.

Thanks to McDonnell's excellent writing, however, it's not essential. (You should read them, of course, as they're all equally excellent).

The action centres on two things - a war between two rival detective agencies, and the events that led to a corrupt FBI agent being buried coming back to bite bunny on the butt.

Over the 300-odd pages, McDonnell weaves the different threads together effortlessly, mixing fast-paced action and humour with the grace and skill we have come to love.

I genuinely can't think of another author writing today who balances the two so well. It's akin to Pratchett at his peak writing about Vimes and the gang. A genuine crime thriller with laughs galore.

Part of the beauty is just how much you care about the characters.

When things go wrong, you are holding your breath, turning the pages frantically to find out what happens next.

When things go right, you are buoyed and lifted, before turning the pages frantically to find out what happens next.

This book, like all the others in the series, is just a delight to be lost in.

In fact, there is only one negative - and that is the final third of the book. Because, as the end nears you are faced with a massive conflict.

On the one hand, you can't wait to find out what happens next. But on the other you don't want the fun to end, so you find yourself slowing down, delaying the inevitable.

Because you just don't want this book to end.

In Bunny McGarry, Caimh McDonnell has created one of the great anti-heroes, but he's just one part of the charm of these books — the supporting cast of characters are equally well-drawn and much-loved.

I now can't wait to go back to the start and read them all again.

Colleen says

Can it still be a trilogy if this is the 4th book and there's a new one (HOORAY) coming out in 2019? So thank heavens--these books are far too good to stop at 3 or 4--way more of this please.

Well, even with the Bunny's grave on the cover, the title, and the first chapter of his funeral, it still comes as a shock that Bunny is dead. After that letdown, the book rewinds time to shortly after the events in *The Day That Never Comes*, to more letdowns. Paul is back on the outs with Brigit, by taking the feud with the people who set him up to *Spy vs. Spy* levels and Bunny isn't helping the agency either with his trademark balcony dangling. Maggie, the police dog who was retired after accidentally ingesting LSD, is still her irascible self and Phil is a dad. And Brigit finds herself in the unenviable position of boss.

Detective Burns & Wilson continue to delight--and all the interactions with the repugnant overly Botoxed FBI agent with mechanical arm were comic bright spots in a book overflowing with humor.

Conan says

Wow. Being the last book in the trilogy, it does a great job of tying up loose ends established over the course of the previous two. I especially liked how the characters have finally settled down, so to speak, and as readers we're all for the better. The several stories going on were fantastic to read, and they involved the hilarious chaos you've come to expect--from escalating hijinks to a satisfying conclusion, you simply can't just put the book down!

Jakky says

Full disclosure: I was sent an advance copy of *Last Orders* to review. I am a huge Caimh McDonnell fan so anything he writes is going to be a winner for me.

OK, now that I've come clean, I can also tell you that I rarely give 5-star reviews. I read a LOT. Four-star reviews are for books that I really enjoyed, that I want to recommend, but that I do not expect to read again. I usually don't bother to review a book that is 3 stars or less. Frankly, I usually don't even finish reading books that I consider less than 3 stars.

Last Orders is a 5-star read for me. Five-star reviews are reserved for books that I KNOW I will read again. And I always do. Like the Harry Potter series. Like *A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry. Like Margaret Atwood's *Alias Grace*. All are different but spoke to me in very gripping ways.

Every one of the four books in this "trilogy" (haha!) is going to be a re-read for me. McDonnell's characters make me laugh out loud in an empty room. His sense of humour tickles my funny bones. The writer in me wonders at how he keeps his plots straight and flowing and so satisfying. I don't know how to review this book without giving away any spoilers, but I do want to say that I had anticipated the ending before I got there... I was very gratified that it wasn't as I thought. All in all, a very "feel-good" read which I will pick up

again when I need a good laugh.

Don Jimmy says

The third book of the Dublin Trilogy is upon us and what a book it is. If you have not read the previous books in the series I would urge you to do so before reading this book, including the prequel.

Last Orders picks up about a year after the events of book 2 (The Day That Never Comes).

We open on the scene of Bunny McGarry's funeral (well it is the cover of the book). All in sundry have turned out to wish the legend that is Bunny on his way, but how did we get here? For that we need to take a step back in time.....

We find Brigit trying to successfully run MCM investigations while also keeping Paul and Bunny out of trouble. Paul can't let the past go and has started a rivalry that is having serious consequences not only for the business, but for his relationship with Brigit. Meanwhile Bunny hasn't changed and his techniques of private investigation are coming under some scrutiny, all the while the events of his past are about to come back to haunt him.

Honestly, I couldn't put this book down. It kept me on the edge of my seat and also delivered the laughs we have come to associate with Caimh McDonnell's books. There were some moments in this book where I genuinely laughed out loud, which I'm sure has led my boss to think I'm mental. Caimh's writing has gone from strength to strength and what we are left with is, in my opinion, his best work to date.

5/5

Sandy says

And so it ends. If I could I'd insert a picture of me having a tantrum that would leave any self respecting 2 year old in awe. On second thought that might be too scary. But I digress...

This is the one fans of the Dublin Trilogy have been waiting for & it doesn't disappoint. We've followed Paul, Brigit & Bunny through murders & mayhem that made us cringe & laugh in equal measure. As this one begins, their private investigation firm MCM is barely solvent. Brigit seems to be the only one showing up for work these days & is royally done with stalking cheating spouses.

Paul is engaged in prank warfare with a rival firm run by the Kelleher brothers who are responsible for his breakup with Brigit. And Bunny...well, Bunny is mostly AWOL. He's spending a lot of time with 2 men who were with him at a particular incident about 20 years ago. Which would be fine if they were alive. Unfortunately they're figments & Bunny is getting more than a few looks as he's seen arguing with himself around town. Could it be the feared & infamous ex-copper is finally losing the plot?

It seems to have started about the time DSI Susan Burns & sidekick Det. Donnacha Wilson were called to a remote area outside of Dublin. New construction unearthed human remains. The bodies are old with nothing to identify them. When the coroner deems them at least 20 years old, all Susan can do is turn to forensic testing. And boy, does she get results. Before she knows it FBI Agent Alana Dove is on her doorstep, demanding to be part of the investigation.

Meanwhile Brigit gets news the firm is being sued & there's a better than average chance they'll lose it all to the Kellehers. No more about that. The ensuing game of spy vs spy between the 2 groups adds tension mixed

with insanity that may have led to some unladylike snorts on my part.

But the heart of the story belongs to Bunny. Dear, hurley-weilding (& arguably sociopathic) Bunny. After the first 2 books of the trilogy the author released “Angels in the Moonlight”, a companion book that gave us the details of Bunny’s past. It’s a fantastic read that made me look at the big guy in a completely different way as I began to understand how he became this solitary man with an oddly honourable code of ethics. That past has come back to haunt him. He’s done some dodgy things & you get the feeling he’s finally going to pay.

As usual, the characters are colourful & so well described you feel like you would recognize them on the street. One standout is Susan Burns. She’s a whip smart cop with a sharp mind & sharper tongue & I enjoyed her scenes immensely. Dialogue is sharp, witty & full of vernacular that gives you plenty of laughs to break the building tension as all the story lines begin to converge. There’s a big finale ahead & no doubt that things at MCM will never be the same.

This series has been such a pleasure to read. The books are smart, well paced & endlessly entertaining & I highly recommend reading them in order of publication. There are hints some of the characters may pop up in future projects so....tick tick, Mr. McDonnell. No time like the present. Now if you’ll excuse me I have a tantrum to finish.

4.5 stars

Melanie Lewis says

I love Bunny, with every fibre of my being I love him. I read this entire book through a film of tears. My heart was broken, watching the great man, the sayer of sooths, the slayer of lions, the panacea of all that is wrong with the world, deteriorate, page by page. The uproariously funny plot line of the War of the Detective Agencies kept me going, a chink of light in a dark world. And of course Donnacha Wilson and Agent Dove's pairing, that had me weeping with laughter instead of tears. This was a truly brilliant book, but whether the world will keep spinning without Bunny, well, no spoilers here. Bunny McGarry - You Are My Hero. I can tell you that you simply must treat yourself and immediately order this book. If you haven't read the others, quickly order them too. They are unique, wickedly funny and warm, with that Irish comedic edge. The series really is a MUST, MUST, MUST READ. I couldn't recommend it more if my name was Mrs Recommend-It-More from the village of Recommend-It-More in Recommend-It-Moreland. Seriously, you can thank me later

Ellen says

A certain part of me doesn't want to write this review, not because I didn't love every word of it but because this it for the Dublin Trilogy. Finito. The finale. An Deireadh! I'm a member of the Bunny McGarry fan club (sssh it's not just me!)and have been throwing the hashtags #TeamBunny and #BunnysGirls around like confetti since the first book (A Man With One of Those Faces). To see Bunny's headstone on the cover and for the opening to be Bunny's funeral broke me before I'd even got started. That I felt this way about a fictional character is testament to Caimh's skills as a writer, Bunny is the perfect anti-hero and I probably shouldn't love the sociopath as much as I do!

To fully enjoy this book I highly recommend that you read the three previous novels *A Man With One of Those Faces*, *The Day That Never Comes* and the prequel *Angels in The Moonlight*. We have watched Bunny, Paul, Phil and Brigit conquer a variety of problems in their roles in MCM Investigations and there is no respite in *Last Orders* as they are in a tit for tat feud with a rival private investigations company which ends up threatening their futures in the business. Add to that two bodies found in the Wicklow Mountains that appear to have a historic link to Bunny...the past well and truly starts to catch up with him and he seems to be descending into madness.

Along with the tugging at your heart strings are the usual laughs and high jinks; Maggie the flatulent dog, Phil's failure to grasp life's simplest lessons along with Paul and Brigit's bumpy road to reconcile. I've loved being on this journey with the gang and am truly sad that it has come to an end....or has it!? Bravo on this outstanding series Mr McDonnell, I can't wait to see what you have up your sleeve next.

Mairead Hearne (swirlandthread.com) says

'When all that's left is the fall, the fall is everything.'

And even the mighty fall'

I have been a fan of Caimh McDonnell's books from the get-go. Packed full with Irish wit and charm, these are novels that will make you cry both tears of laughter and tears of sadness (more of laughter!!)

I cannot believe the series, *The Dublin Trilogy*, featuring my main man, the brilliant Corkonian, that is Bunny McGarry, has come to an end with **Last Orders**, just released on 3rd March.

Caimh McDonnell brings us to the end of our journey with *The Dublin Trilogy*, in this the last installment, **Last Orders**. I have followed the journeys of Paul, Brigit, Phil and Bunny over all the series including the prequel and I've come to know them as more than just characters in a novel.

Last Orders brings all the previous novels together in an unexpected ending, yet one I think all Caimh McDonnell fans will agree, is a fitting finish.

A Man with One of Those Faces (Book #1) introduced the reader to each character. We got a little of their back stories and how paths were crossed and new relationships were made. From the very beginning I connected with Bunny McGarry, a Corkonian, one of my own from my home city of Cork. Bunny and his right hand accessory, Mable his hurley, were a wonderful match. The wit, the comic timing, the pent up anger of a frustrated member of the local police force who spares no one in his fearless attacks was, in my eyes, the top character of the trilogy. As I have read through the full collection of Caimh McDonnell's novels over the past couple of years, I have witnessed Bunny as he has dealt with the criminal faction in his own gutsy way, but I also I have seen a little of the true man that lies beneath that very tough veneer. *Angels in the Moonlight*, as a prequel, brought us back to Bunny as a slightly younger man. It reveals to us a little about where his anger and frustration with life originated. We get to see the softer side of Bunny as he falls in love. We witness his close friendship with his colleague Gringo. We see Bunny McGarry as a person with hopes and feelings, providing an excellent backdrop to the trilogy.

In **Last Orders**, Brigit, Paul and Phil are now the proud owners of their own private investigation firm, MCM. Bunny is what we would call a silent partner. Now retired from the force, he still has his trademark

anger and dark humour about him, but there is trouble brewing. With the firm, MCM, in some difficulties with another company, business gets a little fraught. Brigid tries her hardest to hold it all together but even she is struggling to make ends meet and to keep the business afloat.

Meanwhile DSI Susan Burns and her sidekick Detective Wilson are embroiled in a very delicate case. Human remains have been discovered in the Wicklow mountains, remains that have been buried for nearly twenty years. DSI Burns does not suffer fools gladly and when the FBI come knocking, in the shape of Agent Alana Dove, Burns discovers that there is a hell of a lot more to this case than originally expected.

Caimh McDonnell ties up a lot of loose ends in **Last Orders** and leaves us, as ever, wanting more. If you have followed their stories, you will surely love all the characters, including the rather temperamental and flatulent Maggie. We have witnessed Phil, now on the cusp of fatherhood, with his simplistic, yet sometimes brilliant, ideas as he grows into a man, now with responsibilities. Brigid has become a woman of the world, a far cry from the nurse we met in Book 1. Paul...well, Paul, I think, still has a little growing up to do. And Bunny. Obviously I am NOT going to speak of Bunny in any great detail, as to do so would kind of spoil the story don't you think? It's enough to say that I miss him already...the streets of Dublin will never be the same again....

Last Orders is now available to purchase, but I would recommend you read the previous books first, in order to fully understand the characters with all their flaws and eccentricities. As the novels have progressed, Caimh McDonnell's ability as a wonderful story-teller has grown. Caimh's books are all self-published which really shows the passion he has for his writing. He believes in his characters, as do I and I know you will too!!

Last Orders is packed with charm, wisecracks, banter, playfulness and soul. A really entertaining collection of books...all now available!!

My Rating 4.5*

Abbie says

I have to start off by saying I am gutted that Last Orders is the final book in The Dublin Trilogy. I have loved spending time with Bunny, Paul, Brigit, Phil and especially Maggie. If you haven't read the other two books in the trilogy yet and the prequel you are missing a treat. Last Orders probably can be read as a standalone but in order to get maximum impact you really need to have read the other books first.

It is no secret that I adore this series and Last Orders is the perfect ending to a fab trilogy. It had everything I had come to expect from McDonnell – acerbic Irish wit, fast-paced action and a cracking plot – and more. As we saw in Angels In The Moonlight, McDonnell's writing gets better and better with each book as he also adds a deeper layer of emotion. I don't want to give anything away plot wise, but I found myself deeply concerned for Bunny as his past starts to catch up with him and he suffers the impact of what happened to him in The Day That Never Comes. McDonnell perfectly captures all of the sadness involved in seeing a strong man slowly deplete from both the perspective of the man himself and those around him. Be prepared to go through a whole rollercoaster of emotions while reading Last Orders.

As Paul wages a war against a rival private detective agency, further pushing him and the exasperated Brigit apart, the pace maintains a speedy momentum throughout the book via humour and intrigue. As McDonnell

flings curveballs around until it comes together beautifully at the end you realise how perfectly the plot has been planned and put together.

Part of the beauty of these books is the characterisation. As a reader you can't help but feel a great affection for them all and a part of me is in mourning as the series closes. Each character is well thought out, well-developed and rounded. You get completely wrapped up in the characters and live every moment with them to the point that I found myself talking to them and whispering 'oh, don't do that' to them.

I can't end this review without mentioning McDonnell's observations on society and life in general. They range from the seriously accurate to pee-your-pants funny. Paul's thoughts on wind chimes are just ace and resonated loudly with me as I bloody hate wind chimes!

An absolute corker and a great way to end the series, Last Orders is brilliant. I loved everything about it and it, along with the other three books, will be one I return to again and again. I'm gutted it's over but excited to see where McDonnell takes us next. If you haven't yet read any of these books go out and buy them all now; I promise that you will love them!

Alex says

I've read a lot of series and trilogies in my time, and there's something I've noticed. The last book has an awful lot of work to do. It's got to wrap up every loose end of the previous installments of the series, while giving it all a meaningful ending with enough pace and drama to keep you going. Not every finale manages this, and succumbs to the dreaded Curse of the Last Book.

I was terrified when I finally started reading this book. The other three in the series were a complete joy to read. Full of life and amazing, hilarious characters (Bunny), and I didn't want anything to tarnish them the way a Cursed ending might, especially knowing how much there was to tie up from the prequel. I wanted everything to go well. Happy endings for all. Bunny on every page. No curse.

Thankfully, the writer of this series knew what he was doing. Not only does this book escape the dreaded curse, it might as well flip it off, too. I enjoyed every page of it. With the old mysteries literally rising from the grave to come back and haunt the Dublin gang, there's no time for any of them to get into the Christmas spirit. Instead, things take off running and never stop. I, once again, lost an entire day to reading it, wondering why it ever had to end.

This has been a joy of a series and I hope against hope that there's still more to come.

Bunny Forever.
