



# After The Rising

*Orna Ross*

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*He is still the picture I have held in my hand but blurred at the edges, like a photograph out of focus. His hair is gone, his long, black, beautiful hair. It used to flow down his back, soft and shiny as night-water. Thinning and greying now: any man's hair. And he wears a suit, any man's clothes. I look for what I used to know.*

When Jo Devereux returns to Ireland after an absence of 20 years, the last person she expects to meet at her mother's funeral is Rory O'Donovan. The unexplained conflict between his family and hers was the one constant of Jo's childhood, leading to their painful breakup and Jo's sudden emigration.

Now she's back in Mucknamore, the Irish village where they grew up, he's urging her to stay on after the funeral and she's tempted. Because of him? Because her life in San Francisco is such a mess? Or because, being a writer, she always swore that one day she'd write a book about it all?

Jo settles into a shed near the beach to write her family history and begins to uncover some astonishing truths about her mother and grandmother; about women's role in the conflict that became known as "The War of The Brothers", and about the consequences of a murder that have ricocheted through the generations.

Rory, mired in an unhappy marriage, is urging her to rebel again -- but Jo is more cautious twenty years on. "Rebellion has an energy that sweeps people up," she tells him, "but what happens *after* the rising?"

That's the question Jo must answer if her exhumation of the past is to redeem her future.

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