

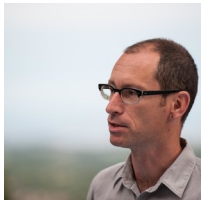
In the Dark Room

Original title:

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Genre: Non-Fiction

Pages: 272 pages



Brian Dillon

Photo: Chris Dixon

In the Dark Room

Boldly combining the highly personal with the brilliantly scholarly, *In the Dark Room* explores the question of how memory works emotionally and culturally. It is narrated through the prism of the author's experience of losing both his parents, his mother when he was sixteen, his father when he was on the cusp of adulthood and of trying, after a breakdown some years later, to piece things together. Drawing on the lessons of centuries of literature, philosophy and visual art, Dillon interprets the relics of his parents and of his childhood in a singularly original and arresting piece of writing reissued for the first time since its original publication in 2005, and including a new foreword from prize-winning biographer Frances Wilson.

Read more: <https://fitzcarraldoeditions.com/books/in-the-dark-room/>

'In the Dark Room moves beyond the specificity of recollected grief to explore the history of attempts to understand memory, from De Quincey to Proust and Bachelard. Like Van Veen in Nabokov's Ada or Ardor, Dillon delights in the texture of time, "in its stuff and spread, in the fall of its folds". The personal blends effortlessly with the universal to form a deeply evocative meditation on loss and the passage of time.'

P. D. Smith, Guardian

'It is the deeply emotive nature of his "journey into memory" that presents Dillon with such a formidable task. Yet he not only succeeds in translating his personal experience into a book of immense, disturbingly lucid insight, but in doing so has written a meditation on the nature of memory that, in many places, could compare to the most open-hearted writings of Roland Barthes. It is an amazing achievement in terms of prose style alone.'

Michael Bracewell, Daily Telegraph

Brian Dillon

Brian Dillon was born in Dublin in 1969. His books include *Suppose a Sentence*, *Essayism*, *The Great Explosion* (shortlisted for the Ondaatje Prize), *Objects in This Mirror: Essays*, *I Am Sitting in a Room*, *Sanctuary*, *Tormented Hope: Nine Hypochondriac Lives* (shortlisted for the Wellcome Book Prize) and *In the Dark Room*, which won the Irish Book Award for non-fiction. His writing has appeared in the *Guardian*, *New York Times*, *London Review of Books*, the *New Yorker*, *New York Review of Books*, *frieze* and *Artforum*. He has curated exhibitions for Tate and Hayward galleries. He lives in London.