



**Title:** The Given Day

**Author:** Dennis Lehane

**Description:**

Set in Boston at the end of the First World War, bestselling author Dennis Lehane's extraordinary eighth novel unflinchingly captures the political and social unrest of a nation caught at the crossroads where past meets future. Filled with a cast of richly drawn, unforgettable characters, *The Given Day* tells the story of two families—one black, one white—swept up in a maelstrom of revolutionaries and anarchists, immigrants and ward bosses, Brahmins and ordinary citizens, all engaged in a battle for survival and power. Coursing through the pivotal events of a turbulent epoch, it explores the crippling violence and irrepressible exuberance of a country at war with, and in the thrall of, itself.

**Reviews**

***Washington Post:***

[Lehane] deserves to be included among the most interesting and accomplished American novelists of any genre or category.

***The New York Times:***

No more thinking of Mr. Lehane as an author of detective novels that make good movies (*Gone Baby Gone*) and tell devastatingly bleak Boston stories (*Mystic River*). He has written a majestic, fiery epic that moves him far beyond the confines of the crime genre.

***Publishers Weekly (starred review):***

In a splendid flowering of the talent previously demonstrated in his crime fiction, Lehane combines 20th-century American history, a gripping story of a family torn by pride and the strictures of the Catholic Church, and the plot of a multifaceted thriller [in a] nail-biter [that] carries serious moral gravity.

***Booklist (starred review):***

Like E. L. Doctorow in *Ragtime*, Lehane captures the sense of a country coming of age, vividly dramatizing how the conflicting emotions and tortured dreams that drive individual human lives also send a nation roiling forward.

***Library Journal (starred review):***

Lehane's first historical novel is a clear winner, displaying all the virtues the author has shown in his exceptional series of crime novels: narrative verve, sensitivity to setting, the interweaving of complicated story lines, an apt and emotionally

satisfying denouement -- and, above all, the author's abiding love for his characters and the human condition. Lehane's long-awaited eighth novel is as good as it gets.

**Associated Press:**

*The Given Day* places [Lehane] in the first rank of modern American novelists.

**USA Today:**

This may be Lehane's finest work.

**George R.R. Martin:**

*The Given Day* is as strong as anything Lehane has done, and that's saying a lot.

**Time Out London (Book of the Week for February 5-11, 2009):**

In the tradition of James Lee Burke's *The Tin Roof Blowdown* (set during Hurricane Katrina) and Ellroy's *American Tabloid*, this is a novel that transcends genre, instead presenting a riveting portrayal of American life.

**Philadelphia Inquirer:**

*The Given Day* moves at the pace of an Indiana Jones movie with a narrative voice that touches the eye and delights the ear ... this book is Lehane at his best.

**Ft. Meyers News Press:**

If *Mystic River* was an unforgettable appetizer of the Irish-American experience, Dennis Lehane's long-awaited historical novel *The Given Day* is the feast we've waited more than seven years to savor. Rich, complex and deeply moving, *The Given Day* is this year's undisputed masterpiece.

**Orlando Sentinel:**

At 720 pages, *The Given Day* could double as a doorstop, but Lehane's masterful pacing and precise prose make the story speed by. As with the finest of historical fiction, Lehane shows that the fears and concerns of the 21st century are as fresh and raw as they were in the 20th century.