

That's More Of It Now

the second book of Irish Mammies

*'I'll go up now and switch on
the electric blanket while the
ads are on.'*

*'Listen-to-me-now, there's
to be No. Acting. Up. this
Christmas. Is that clear?'*

*'I don't care WHO started it.
I'm FINISHING it.'*

*'That cup is too near
the edge there.'*

*'You'll get another
wear out of that.'*



the twitter sensation @irishmammies

COLM O'REGAN

About the Book

Colm O'Regan's massive bestseller *Isn't It Well For Ye? The Book of Irish Mammies* brought the wonderful world of the Irish Mammy to homes across Ireland, where it took pride of place alongside the good scissors and the bit of string that might come in handy someday. And now, before you can say 'Is it that time already?', Irish Mammy is back with more words of wisdom.

That's More Of It Now: The Second Book of Irish Mammies takes us even deeper into this parallel universe, with advice on everything from how to tell Mammy she is about to become a Granny to how to discipline a child (aged 0-45), touching on Irish Mammies' role in the worlds of sport, the workplace, technology, religion and culture. Enjoy popular fairy-tales retold with an Irish Mammy at the centre of them; marvel at exclusive, not-yet-released scenes from the epic *Game of Scones*; and find some essential apps for the Modern Mammy's tablet.

Probably the most important sequel since *The Godfather Part II*, or at least *Fifty Shades Darker*, *That's More Of It Now* will find a place in everybody's heart (and stocking). Just don't leave it on a damp step.

Contents

Cover

About the Book

Title Page

Epigraph

Introduction

Mammy's Turn

- 1 Mammy, We Hardly Knew You
- 2 Rearing to Go
- 3 Fierce Activity
- 4 It Keeps Them Out of Trouble Anyway
- 5 Justice and the Peace
- 6 Life Skills
- 7 They're All Gone Away
- 8 The Second Collection
- 9 Mammies at Large
- 10 Put the Feet Up
- 11 How Did We Do Without It?

- 12 Get Well Sooner
- 13 Who's Building That House?
- 14 Box Clever
- 15 Leading by Example
- 16 Bringing It All Back Home
- 17 Flying Visits
- 18 What Will She Be Like?

Acknowledgements

About the Author

Also by Colm O'Regan

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That's More Of It Now

the second book of
Irish Mammies

COLM O'REGAN

Are your hands clean? ... Show me ... Go back out
now and wash them like a good child.

Introduction

Welcome to the second book of Irish Mammies. As you can see from the cover, you've arrived just in time for the tea.

For those of you who've just joined us, a quick recap. *Isn't It Well for Ye?* was the first book and it was inspired by the popularity of the @irishmammies Twitter account – which by this stage has gathered in more than 100,000 followers. The first book was bought by different types of people: Mammies curious to see what the fuss was about, people interested to find out if every family had a good scissors and quite a lot of people who bought it in a panic just before the shop closed on Christmas Eve. Whoever they were, it seems that at least some readers enjoyed it, judging from the nice messages they send.

This book tries to cover a few things which the first book might have missed. It gives some must-know information on several important and weighty topics, such as The Vest (the final element in the anti-cold quartet, along with Coats, Cough Bottle and Common Sense), the new pope and the phenomenon of Mammies on a Train.

But it also looks a little more deeply at Mammies' socializing. It hints at a juicy past and pays tribute to the Mammies of all ages who are rushed off their feet, as they try to keep today's youngsters entertained. They are up the walls but if you'll have a bit of patience, they'll be over to you in a second.

Unfortunately, a lot of Mammies' children have had to go abroad. Mammies are delighted they found a bit of work but you might give them a quick call. They have to find out all the news from Facebook and you know they have reservations about that.

That's More of It Now also tries to reflect the fact that Mammies are more than familiar with the new technology

and will use it, where appropriate. In fact they could do with even more innovation. So innovators – what’s keeping you? To get you started, this book has some suggestions for Mammy-specific software.

When you look at the organizational nous, the high performance under pressure and the results achieved, you come to the inevitable conclusion that the best way forward for Ireland is a government of Mammies.

Above all, this book tries to continue where the first left off – celebrating the wit, wisdom, pragmatism and warmth of an Irish Mammy. It’s still very well for us.

Colm O’Regan

Mammy's Turn

Is it a year since the first book? Well 'Magine That. Where did the year go to at all? But I suppose as long as we have our health.

I know I wrote some bit of a thing for the first book. I can't remember what it was to be honest with you, but wasn't I inside in Roches Stores - of course it's not Roches now, some other crowd took it over - and this woman comes up to me and says she, 'You were dead right about the coat.' Says I, 'What coat?' Says she, 'In the book you told us to bring a coat with us in case it rained - and would you believe,' says she, 'didn't I do that and didn't it teem down out of the heavens?'

There you go now.

Anyway, where was I? Oh yes ... this second book. Well I heard he was writing it so says I, 'I'll ring him up now while 'tis fresh in my mind because otherwise I'd forget.' I got him on the phone - and that wasn't easy because he's as BUSY - and says I, 'Whatever you do in this oul second book, will you give A Mention to those poor Mammies, rushed off their feet, going here and there, and a lot of them with their own jobs as well. They've far more to be doing than I have and a lot more to worry about besides tea-towels, I can tell you. So I hope he included that now. I'd say he will. He's a good lad despite it all.

It's been a busy year for me too. Didn't I finally get On Line - asthefellasaid. I'd say I was the last one in the country. The woman in the computer class must think I'm an awful eejit but I'll learn at my own pace. Anyway let ye sit over now before the tea gets cold.

You'll have a biscuit, won't you?

Mammy

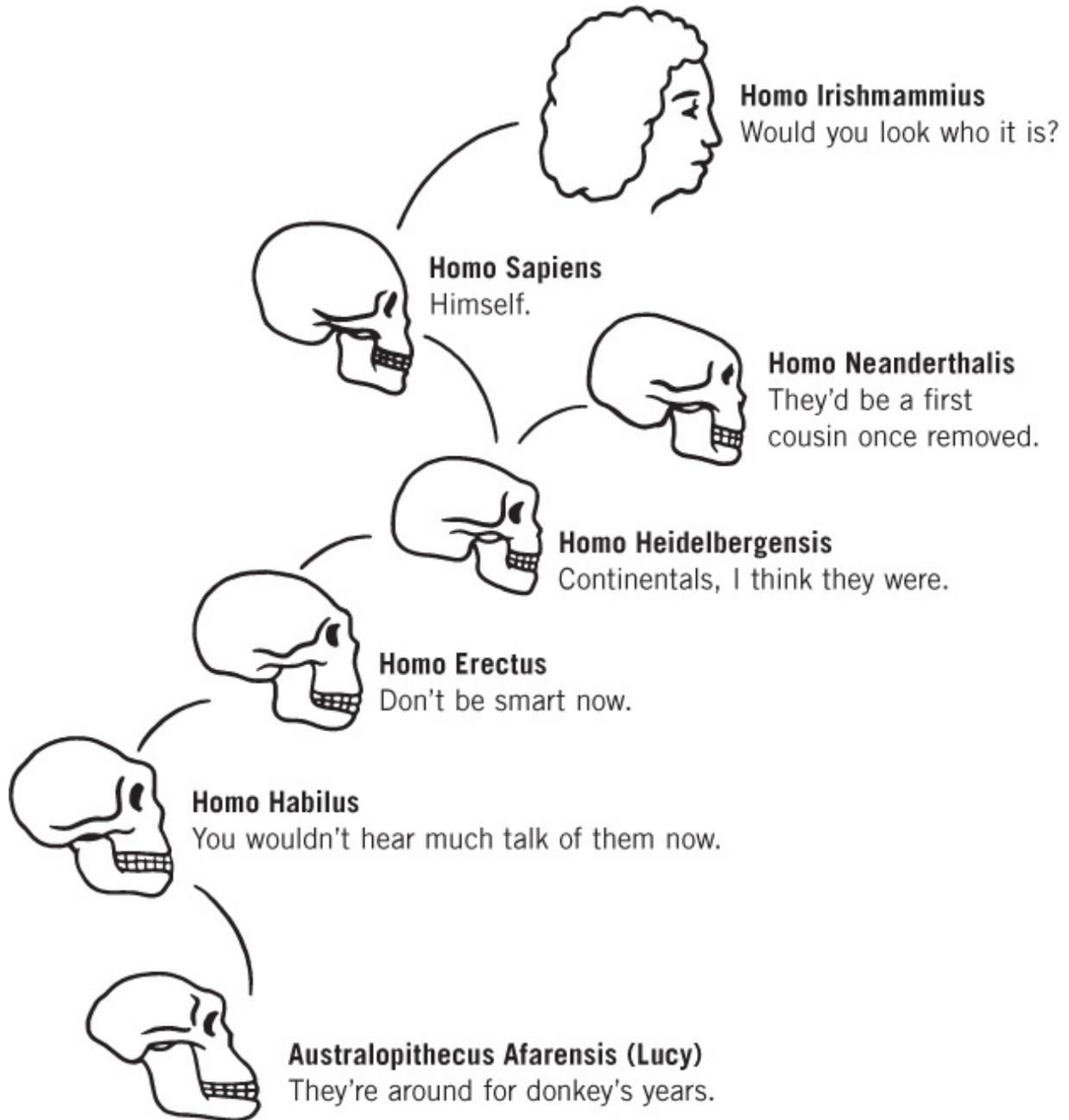
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Mammy, We Hardly Knew You

H ... Hello ... hello ... Oh hello ... You were
a while answering ... It's me ... Mammy.



SHE'S BACK! BUT who is she really? There are many different variations of Irish mother. Too many to do justice to, even in a tome as weighty as this. But one thing is clear: with such variations in behaviour, language and even anatomy, the Irish Mammy may actually be a different species.



Different Strokes

'I don't CARE what the Prendergasts are having for dinner. We're not the Prendergasts.'



But what should we call her?

Mammy, Mam, Mummy, Mum, Mommy, Mom, Mother, Ma, Mama. We all have different names for her. The particular one you use was usually first revealed to your classmates in Senior Infants when you accidentally called your teacher by it instead of 'Miss'. It probably only happened once but you never forgot the day everyone laughed at you.

The most common names are Mammy and Mummy. They are often interchangeable but at the extreme edges of Mummydom, there are ever so slight differences from the Irish Mammy characterized in a lot of this book. Here are some areas where these alternatives in approach are just about visible. (Note - there is absolutely no judgement here about which is better. Every family has their own way of doing things.)

Mummy	Mammy
That hummus is divine.	'Tis gone very humid.
We've just enrolled Cessair in the Little CEOs Club. It's a sort of MBA for tots.	I think he's outside somewhere poking around with a stick.
Darling, you know we've had this conversation. We spoke about your behaviour before when you are faced with a situation which causes you frustration. We said you were to take a deep breath and think about the consequences of what you are doing.	WHATINTHENAMEOF GODAREYOUAFTER DOINGTOYOUR BROTHER?!
We go every year. Nemain loves the whittling in the Body and Soul area.	Whatever you do, stay away from that oul Swedish Mafia House or whatever they're called.
We're going to teach them about all the religions – Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Christianity – and Olwen lent us this great new book about the Kabbalah. Then we'll have a secular ceremony instead of communion. Although <i>my</i> mother is going to have a fit when she hears.	Ah, will you just do it for me? What am I to say to the neighbours? They'll be wondering why you're not there.

Mummy	Mammy
<p>For Attn: The Principal My daughter Anemone is a pupil in your school. It has come to our attention that one of your teachers instructed her to 'cop on to herself'. We are deeply concerned about the developmental impact this may have on her ...</p>	<p>I was mortified when Miss Mooney told me what you were after getting up to. I'll tell you this much for nothing, there'll be no Jelly Tots this evening, or indeed any evening, for a good while.</p>
<p>So we're thinking Burma this year. Totally unspoiled and a great way for Bruin to practise his naban ... What? Oh, what is it? It's a kind of martial art. I thought it would be good to get him doing some exercise, and you read all the time about this obesity epidemic ...</p>	<p>There we were, all set to go into the Amusements and you got The Runs. And of course your father was no help. All he said was '<i>I knew well we shouldn't have given him that Mint Aero.</i>'</p>
<p>It's very important that the children's toys don't impose on them any of the conventional mores of the gung-ho capitalist neo-liberal hegemony.</p>	<p>Who broke your Dinky? ... Who? ... Right, we're going To Sort This Thing Out once and for all ... GETDOWNTHAT STAIRSTHISINSTANT THEPAIROFYE IWANTTOTALKTOYE.</p>
<p>Now, now, Oberon, when you've finished your chia seeds you can have a treat. It's your favourite – we have carob bars!</p>	<p>Sliced pan! How did I forget that? Shur that was the main reason for going in the first place.</p>

There IS a Need for That Kind of Language

'I DID say so. You mustn't have been listening.'



Many Irish Mammies speak a number of tongues, but they have a native language all of their own. On the surface it looks a lot like English but on closer examination you will find a number of tenses, parts of speech and other grammatical quirks that make Irish Mammyish a unique dialect. Whether she's venting frustration or ever-so-gently marking an adult child's cards, the fundamental principle underlying Irish Mammyish is the ability to convey a lot of meaning in very few words.

I don't know WHAT time
they'll be finished the silage
or will they be wanting The
Dinner. } *Future Subjunctive*
Logistical Tense

And they wouldn't eat what
you'd put in front of them. } *Awkward*
Conditional Tense

I was expecting a phone call on Sunday.	} Continuous Present Past Tense
But I suppose you must have been busy.	} Passive Aggressive Tense
Sure you're here now anyway. That's the main thing.	} Tense

In addition to grammatical tension, Irish Mammyish has a number of voices.

- **The Accusative Voice:** Was that you?
- **The Wistful Voice:** Pity you didn't say that earlier and I only just passing the shop.
- **The Elliptical Voice:** I see the Quigleys are expecting their second child ... 'Twouldn't be any harm if ye were getting a move on too.
- **The Understated Voice:** She's after winning some oul award for entrepreneurship, Earnest and Something. Ah, she was lucky.
- **The Overstated Voice:** SPEECHES?! DON'T BETALKINGTOME! HALF-TEN BEFORE WE GOT THE MEAL. I WAS NEARLY DEAD WITH THE HUNGER.

There are also collective nouns that are only applicable to Mammies.

- **A good scattering of Mammies:** The group of Mammies that turned up to a function. This is especially applicable where there was a doubt about whether the function would go ahead.
- **A fleece of Mammies:** A group of Mammies going for a walk on the side of an extremely busy road.
- **A caution of Mammies:** Mammies on a school tour.
- **A pride of Mammies:** At a graduation.

Body Language

'I shouldn't have to say it to you. You should know.'



Irish Mammies will also employ physicality in conjunction with statements to give them greater emphasis. The *chin clench* is chosen where Mammy needs to express rage in a very controlled way.



Similar in shape to the chin clench but with a very different intent is the *downturned mouth*. Its role is to convey Mammy's surprise at a turn of events in certain circumstances. For example, where someone she had considered a bit wild ends up exceeding expectations.



Bionic Mammy

'And they expect you to do EVERYTHING for them.'



As Irish Mammies evolved they also developed some new physical attributes that are verging on superpowers. These superpowers have never been celebrated in the format of a comic. Until now. Exclusive to this book are the cover and first pages of the latest superheroine - Bionic Mammy.

The Adventures of

BIONIC MAMMY

Family-Tree Mapping

Eyes in back
of head

Worr-eyes

Back teeth

to where she is
fed up listening to
the pair of ye.

Utility or 'Fierce
Handy' belt

Contains:
Wooden Spoon of Justice
Plasters
Magic Healing Potion
(Sudocrem)

Putting-Down Foot

SEE HER

AMAZING SUPERPOWERS!



IT'S ANOTHER BUSY DAY FOR BIONIC MAMMY.

AND HER MOST AMAZING POWER OF ALL... WORRY-EYES!

DANGER:
Cup too near edge of table.

SHE HAS TO USE ALL HER BIONIC POWERS ...

EYES IN THE BACK OF HER HEAD.

DUE TO A NUCLEAR ACCIDENT, BIONIC MAMMY HAS THE ABILITY TO SCAN ANY SITUATION FOR POTENTIAL RISK.

I can SEE you. Don't even THINK of dropping the poor cat on that balloon.

DANGER:
Child without woolly hat
RISK: Double Pneumonia.

FAMILY-TREE-MAPPING.

ALTHOUGH SOME SITUATIONS MAY BE BEYOND EVEN HER POWERS.

TOO MUCH DANGER!
Since he got mixed up with them lads from the town, you might as well be talking to the wall.

I have you placed now. You'd be his SECOND COUSIN. You're a nephew of Áine's.

But... But if I could just talk to you for a minute about the great work that AID-AID does in the Third World.

Soft Spots



There is a danger with all this iconicizing of Mammy that we forget that she is human. There are times when her thoughts stray to 'Someone Else'. Someone who she's always had a thing for. Here are some soft spots a Mammy might have.

Leonard Cohen

Leonard Cohen evokes something important for Irish Mammies: a past. He sings about quare carry-on in hotels in Manhattan, gypsy boys and an order of nuns who non-judgementally take in troubadours. (Especially troubadours who've been up to quare carry-on in Manhattan hotels.)

While Mammy may not have tiptoed across a foyer on the Lower West Side, she may once have done a steady line with an unsuitable arty-type who knew Phil Lynott. Or she had a fling with a cousin of Himself before Himself was on the scene. Now she listens to Leonard and her mind opens a box of keepsakes and finds a tattered postcard from The Other Fella.

Gay Byrne

There was no one like Gay. He called himself Uncle Gaybo and no one could argue with the title. Presenters who succeeded him never came close to having blood relations with the country. They were more like in-laws. It was the morning radio show where most Irish Mammies 'made ears' at him. Mammies referred to him as My Gaybo and wrote in to tell him things they wouldn't have whispered to their best

friend for fear they'd be misunderstood. But Gaybo never misunderstood.

Kenny Rogers

Mammy has always been a fan of grand singers but this is a different type of grand singer. One of the inspirations, along with John Wayne, for every man who strode bow-legged around an Irish country town with a cowboy hat, for every fella who 'went the money' and got a proper pair of denims - denims, not jeans - that fitted. Kenny Rogers could wear denim socks and get away with it. He is a man's man. And a Mammy's man.

The characters he sings about have a flawed past. Kenny's man knows when he's beat, tips a hat to the rest of the rabble in the room, and drives off down the freeway in a battered old truck.

Jeremy Paxman

She shouldn't like him. Talk about impatient! You couldn't have Paxman around the place interrogating Mammy about why no two of her mugs were alike, 'putting it to her' that there was no real need for a hot-water bottle. But what if he was in her corner? Imagine him not taking no for an answer until he got to speak to someone from The Council about the illegal dumping behind the ditch that was ruining Mammy's walk. Imagine him reducing a TD to a quivering mess when asked what was delaying Mammy's medical card. His alpha-male power would be exciting. And if he's impatient, what of it?

Helen Mirren