



Etruscan Press

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Etruscan Press Announces New Release From Author Colum McCann

Wilkes-Barre, Pa. (Nov. 17, 2022) – Etruscan Press, founded in 2001 and affiliated with Wilkes University since 2006, recently announced a forthcoming release from National Book Award winner Colum McCann.

Set to be released in January 2024, *American Mother*, written in collaboration with Diane Foley, will be McCann’s first major work of nonfiction.

“We are proud and delighted to publish Colum McCann’s *American Mother*,” said Executive Director Philip Brady. “Winner of many international prizes, and founder of Narrative 4, Colum McCann is one of the great voices of our day. This is a glorious book which will undoubtedly be compared with Truman Capote’s *In Cold Blood* and other groundbreaking nonfiction accounts.”

American Mother follows the story of Diane Foley, whose son James was held hostage and murdered in 2014 by ISIS for being a journalist. A depiction of her courage and vision, it is a book for our times — a story of loss and breakage and ultimate repair.

Etruscan Executive Editor Robert Mooney, who worked closely with McCann on the story, had this to say about his editorial collaboration with his longtime friend: “Working shoulder-to-shoulder with Colum, as well as the amazing Diane Foley, for me, was a joy and a searing exploration of great writing. Together we had to braid three distinct voices into a singular engaging narrative — Colum’s, Diane’s, and their amalgam, an empathic narrative intelligence that is the story. Getting them to work in chorus in a nonfiction work of literary journalism meant exploring meaningful truths through radical empathy.”

Mooney went on to say that Jim Foley's closest friend, Tom Durkin, said McCann “nailed it,” that he “got Jim right, captured the fullness of his spirit on the page” and that the book “found Jim and is keeping him alive.”

Diane Foley’s story is one for our times, and is timeless, the rare story that invites its readers, by courageous demonstration, to a larger, radically empathic humanity.

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McCann, born and raised in Dublin, Ireland, has won many awards and honors for his seven novels and three collections of short stories. *Apeirogon*, his most recent novel published in 2020, was an immediate international bestseller and has already received several international awards.

“I’m so honored to be working with Etruscan,” said McCann. “This is a very special book for both Diane and me, and we wanted a careful home for it. Working in nonfiction is a new step for me. I relished the challenge.”

McCann remains contracted to Penguin Random House for his fiction and his forthcoming novel *Twist*, will be published in early 2025. He serves as President and co-founder of Narrative 4, a global non-profit storytelling organization utilized to build empathy in young people and encourage them to improve their communities.

About Etruscan Press

Housed at Wilkes University and partnering with Youngstown State University, Etruscan is a nonprofit national literary press working to produce and promote books that nurture the dialogue among genres, cultures, and voices. Etruscan publishes books of poems, novels, short stories, creative nonfiction, criticism, translation, and anthologies.

Etruscan was one of four finalists for the 2021 AWP Small Press Publisher Award. Three works from Etruscan’s collection of poetry were named finalists for the National Book Award and another was named to the Longlist (the NBA’s “Top Ten” in poetry). Other titles are recipients of the Poetry Society of America’s “First Book Award,” the *Foreword Reviews* Book of the Year Award, and PEN Oakland’s “Josephine Miles Award.” Three poems published by Etruscan were selected for *Best American Poetry*. Most recently, titles published by Etruscan Press were awarded the Theodore Roethke Memorial Poetry Prize, Mass Book Award, nominated for the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award in Poetry, the Poet’s Prize, named a finalist for the *Foreword Reviews* Book of the Year Award, Housatonic Book Award, Helen Smith Memorial Prize for Best Book of Poetry, and longlisted for the PEN/Diamonstein-Spielvogel Award for the Art of the Essay.

In March 2018, Etruscan Press and Wilkes University joined United Airlines *Books on the Fly*, an outreach partnership at Boston Logan International Airport that offers United customers to select Etruscan books to read on long-haul flights. This outreach partnership expanded to Denver International Airport in May 2022. The outreach initiative includes books donated by Etruscan Press.

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