

August 18, 2022

Hello Friends who Read for Enjoyment,

As I have been lazily dozing through Summer, I have recently been snapped to alertness by several somewhat testy emails basically saying, “you blockhead! Where’s our latest book letter?” Well I guess a brief mea culpa may be in order since everyone’s subscription agreement (wait, there is one?) suggests bookletters every three months. Whatever. Here we are.

And one other mini excuse is that quite honestly the books that have come out on best-seller lists, etc. over the past several months, at least to me have been pretty woeful. But fear not, as the saying goes “Even a blind pig finds a truffle” and guess what? I have found a few truffles. Some authors, NEW NEW, to the bookletter and then some true gems from long-standing favorites. First , the NEW

1. **Max Allan Collins** **– Road to Perdition (movie)**
2. _____ **- Road to Purgatory**
3. _____ **- Road to Paradise**

Major discovery alert!!! This guy Max Collins is truly special. How he has hidden from me for all these years I do not know. He’s “only” written about 70 books, including several different series and then these three absolute gems. This might be a good opportunity to answer a question many of you have asked over the years...”Brendan, how do you come up with these authors and titles?” Well, actually many ways but this experience was pretty interesting. As I’ve mentioned many times, I have long loved the Strand Bookstore here in NYC located on 12th Street and Broadway. It’s been in business probably 75 years. (And NO, I was not there on opening day). There has rarely been a time when I did not wander the shelves and not find some unanticipated gem. And that is precisely what happened this time.

So there I am in the Mystery section, aimlessly poking my way along when a book titled *Road to Purgatory* by Max Allan Collins captures my attention. I vaguely remember someone, I think it was Charlie S, mentioning this author’s name. So, I pluck the book off the shelf, look it over, perfect condition, seven bucks, whatever – and then read the first few pages and immediately

I'm sucked in. Brilliant writing about the Battle of Bataan, World War II. Take it home, read it and Bingo..Superb. Absolutely superb. And as I'm reading it, I realize this is the second book in a trilogy which actually started with the movie "Road to Perdition" released in 2002 starring no less than Tom Hanks, Paul Newman, Jude Law, Stanley Tucci, Daniel Craig etc. It's about gangsters in the 1930's. How did I not go see this movie? I still can't understand it. More on that later. And then of course, predictably I quickly scurried onto Alibris.com and scooped up a copy of the final volume, *Road to Paradise*.

Before getting into the details of the storyline, let me quote Mickey Spillane (who better to comment on crime novels?). As Mickey says, "Max Allan Collins goes the Godfather and The Sopranos one better by spinning a compelling yarn involving the REAL gangsters of 20th century America. The ride on this road just gets better and better...and wilder!" and Mickey does not lie. I just loved this trilogy. The two books and the movie follow the adventures of young Michael O'Sullivan, son of gangster-man, Michael O'Sullivan, Sr. who worked for the Mob. The real Mob. As their #1 hit man, known as the Angel of Death. We encounter Al Capone, Frank Nitti, Elliott Ness (hopefully, you're old enough to remember that great show, "The Untouchables") and assorted other bad boys of the era. In the first volume (actually the movie), Michael is 10 years old, living a normal life in Rock Island, Illinois. Then the Mob turns against Michael Sr.(tries to kill him) and all is upended. Father and son take off, seeking revenge, robbing Mob banks etc, with Michael now ten, becoming his father's get away driver Michael's upbringing is unusual shall we say.

In *The Road to Purgatory* we open with Michael O'Sullivan now named Michael Satariano, the name of the family he had been adopted by after his own father died. Now this Michael is no longer the 10-year-old kid but rather he is a battle-hardened US Army Infantryman in Bataan where he earns the first Medal of Honor given in World War II. Michael returns a hero to the United States and then under his new identity begins to wreak revenge on those who betrayed his family so badly. And then in book three, *The Road to Paradise*, Michael is again the hero, this time running a very successful casino in Tahoe and Las Vegas for the mob. Who have not yet connected that Michael Satariano is indeed Michael O'Sullivan, Jr. In any event, bad stuff happens yet again, and Michael and family have to move on rapidly.

I suspect I'm not doing this trilogy justice. I'm trying to describe a movie and 2 great books. But back to the Mickey Spillane quote, this whole trilogy is really a bit of a mash up of The Godfather and The Sopranos with a ton of The Untouchables thrown in as well. We bounce from Chicago to the Philippines to Vegas. We intermingle real life characters from history including Sinatra, Sam Giancana, the McGuire Sisters (remember them), Frank Nitti with imagined characters who totally live up to the standards of the real-life characters. I would suggest if this does intrigue you, you dig out on Netflix (for free by the way) the movie "The

Road to Perdition". Just a great movie to begin with. And then that tees you up for Book 2 and Book 3. Just immensely readable books as was *The Godfather* and also books which provide a remarkable mini-history definitely from a bad-boy perspective of the US from the 1930's through the 40's, World War II and on. I genuinely love these. Don't know how they escaped my attention for all these years. Wonderfully written, great stories.

4. Kate Quinn

--The Diamond Eye

As the flyleaf says, "based on a true story this is an unforgettable World War II tale of a quiet bookworm who becomes history's deadliest female sniper." How can that not intrigue you? Kate Quinn is another one of these authors who has written several extremely successful books largely historical in nature, ranging from ancient Rome to World War II and I've somehow never come across her. This was a great introduction. The heroine, "a wry, bookish history student, Mila Pavlochenko", is snatched from her dull library job, thrust into the Russian army as the Germans invade and who then transforms herself into a deadly sniper who becomes a lethal hunter of Nazis known as "Lady Death." After 300 kills, she becomes a national heroine of Russia and is dispatched to the United States on a goodwill tour (I guess different times precipitate different criteria...can you imagine today??). In any event, she winds up in Washington, DC, becomes a great pal of Eleanor Roosevelt, and also connects with another sniper. Intrigue abounds, assorted "baddies" in the Washington establishment (gasp..how rare) seek to create trouble for her and ..bang...we have is a great novel with authentic battlefield scenes in WWII Russia, political intrigue in Washington and a remarkable human story about a highly unlikely candidate to be someone who significantly impacts world events. One other thing you can count on from Kate Quinn ... she really is a history nut and devotes much attention to the veracity of the historical details she presents. First recommended by Paige on the West Coast.

5. William P. Barr

--One Damn Thing After Another

Wait!! What is this doing in my mystery booklet? Not only is it not a mystery, it is a book about politics which yours truly vehemently refuses to read. So why this one? Well let me start with Barr himself. I do like the guy. I confess that right up front. And as you would see if you read the book, he's kind of equal opportunity pisser-off-er. What has always caught my eye about him is he does seem to say things that are based on common sense and the law. I'm sure some will disagree...fair enough. But if you do want a wonderfully written, very easy to read ramble through growing up in New York City, going to law school and then having a very long, distinguished career as Attorney General to two Presidents,.... through some pretty fascinating

periods of history..this is it. He played a key role in investigating Pan Am Flight 103, in the Gulf War, the Serbian Crisis, Iran Contra and then onto Russia-Gate, the Mueller Report, etc. etc. Just fascinating stuff honestly. And I would say pretty much without an agenda. But again, some might disagree.

There are tons of great quotes from the book by Barr but I'll just give you two that kind of capture the man from my perspective. When talking about crime Barr says, "I was so convinced that most predatory violent crime was committed by a small group of chronic offenders who continue committing crime whenever they're out on the streets the only sure way of reducing violent street crime is to keep these chronic offenders off the street by making them serve the long prison sentences they deserve." Makes sense to me. And then the second quote which kind of sums up his experience through many many years in government service is "We live in a time when people, especially the country's most educated and influential people are more attached to self-serving narratives than to factual truth." Amen. And he's not saying that about Democrats or about Republicans or about Independents. He's talking about all of them. An unusual recommendation for this booklet but honestly, I thought it was terrific.

6. Graham Norton

--Holding

Every once in a while, this booklet (ie. me) turns up some little nugget that nobody has ever heard of and maybe never will again. This one of those. The author, Graham Norton is actually a quite well-known fellow in the UK principally as host of a comedy talk show. He has written some other books, but this is his first mystery. The setting is the remote Irish village of Duneen which as the flyleaf says "has known little drama and its inhabitants are troubled. Sergeant P.J. Collins hasn't always been this overweight; mother of two, Brid Riordan hasn't always been an alcoholic; and elegant Evelyn Ross hasn't always felt that her life was a total waste." Well now. Human remains unexpectedly turn up and the village's dark past come to light. But make no mistake, this is not a dark, horror story ..it's actually quite lively and as the flyleaf says, "it's comic, touching and at times profoundly sad." But it won't make you sad.

One example of the writing ..."Mairead Gallagher stepped in front of the altar in a dress that would have been more appropriate for the Oscars than an amateur musical evening in Duneen Presumably the desired effect of having so much skin on show was to be sexy, but in the stony chill of St. Michael's chapel, it just made men and women alike wonder how cold she must be." In sum, a most enjoyable "little mystery in an interesting part of the world." And of course, you don't have to be Irish to get this one at all. And one tip, as you will not be finding this in your local Barnes & Noble, I stumbled upon a rather incredible book source based in the UK. It is

awesomebooks.com and they seem to have everything. Not unlike alibris here. Very modestly priced and even shipping to the US is quite cheap. Who else provides you service like this?

7. *Sir Ian Hamilton* *Fate*

8. _____ *--Foresight*

9. _____ *--Fortune*

First..true confession. I absolutely love Hong Kong. From my very first visit there in 1978 to a subsequent visit in the late 1990's to several visits during the 2000's culminating in my last visit in 2019 just before COVID. It's just a magnificent city and I hope kind of against hope that it will continue to be so. If you are at all a Hong Kong nut or even just a bit intrigued with that part of the world this is a fabulous series for you. If you are not, maybe not. But could be worth a try to maybe read one. The three novels comprise a series titled "The Lost Decades of Uncle Chow Tung" all written by Ian Hamilton, a renowned expert and fan of Hong Kong. Book One begins in June 1959 as the young Chow Tung and some companions slip into the waters between the Republic of China and the then quite independent Hong Kong. And he and some of them successfully swim to freedom to a future life in Hong Kong. Over time Chow Tung becomes involved with the Triads, which play such a large role in Hong Kong and for ten years we observe as he works his way up through the organization and at the same time, we experience street level life in Hong Kong. Then in 1969 the Dragon Head of the Fanling Triad has died, and a struggle commences to replace him. Totally unexpectedly Chow Tung assumes the role and Uncle Chow Tung takes charge. Book Two begins in May 1981 and we observe the Fanling Triad now under the leadership of Uncle Chow Tung begin to greatly expand its business engagements into a heretofore strictly out-of-bounds, China, as Premier Deng Xiaoping breaks precedent and set up Special Economic Zones. Apropos of nothing, my favorite Deng Xiaoping quote is "it doesn't matter if a cat is black or white; if it catches mice, it is a good cat'. (where's Deng now that we need him)

Then in volume three, we fast-forward to Hong Kong 1995 which of course is two years prior to when Hong Kong is to be returned to the People's Republic of China. Historically, the Triads were relentlessly hunted by the Communist government and therefore had very little business in Mainland China. And obviously concerns in the Hong Kong triads are all about what's going to happen with the Communists take over. Uncle Chow Tung has companies in China and this volume is all about how things unfold to ensure the continuing success of the Fanling Triad.

I've not done a brilliant job of capturing how these books read. I've turned them more into seemingly a history of the Hong Kong Triads as opposed to a remarkable everyday look into what life was like in Hong Kong in each of these three connected eras. If you enjoy a book which inserts you into everyday street life, into local culture and mores, into restaurants and meals, into political debates, into personal relationships, into crime strategies and actually even some business management techniques these are truly ones to read. That said, you probably should be at least a little intrigued by Hong Kong. And the lead character, Uncle Chow Tung is one of the more engaging guys I've ever read about. All fiction but remarkably well documented and accurate.

10. Ajay Chowdhury

--The Waiter

Okay, okay you've been waiting for it. The requisite "Indian book". Although this is a bit different. As our longtime favorite Abir Mukherjee says, "From the mean streets of Kol Kata (Calcutta to many of us) to the kitchens of Brick Lane, this is a rip-roaring mystery." And it is. I wouldn't rate it as high as our pal Mukherjee's own books, but this is the first in a new series and a very interesting premise. Our lead character, Homicide Sub-Inspector Kamil Rahman opens in our story as the designated lead Inspector in a very high-profile homicide in Kol Kata, India. We quickly learn that things have not gone well in that high profile case and as a result he has left Kol Kata three months ago in disgrace, winding up in London working as a waiter in a relative's restaurant in Brick Lane. Subsequently, a very high-profile murder occurs in London and despite the fact that Kamil is no longer a detective with no badge whatsoever, he gets involved in trying to solve it. Predictable interactions occur and as the whole story unfolds each chapter bounces from about three months prior in Kol Kata to current time in London. Sounds complicated but it's not. And wonder of wonder, could there possibly be some connectivity between the two events. Lots of inside "Indian stuff" including much Indian food, expressions and even a bit of current history. However, this is not like other Indian books which go back to the time of Ghandi or even into the early 19th century when India per se was really the central focus.

11. David McCluskey

--Damascus Station

Quick caveat.. Another author, David Downing, has written seven well-known and well regarded novels, all with the word "Station" in their title, all of which take place in and around Berlin during World War II. This is not that "Station". Not at all. This is by David McCluskey and takes place in current day Syria and is about a CIA case officer, Sam Joseph, who is dispatched to Paris to recruit a Syrian official, Marian Haddad. Very realistic spy stuff here. And a guy who clearly knows of what he speaks. I was amused by the book jacket quote from our super

favorite pal, Jack Carr who said “I am shocked the CIA publication review board allowed David McCluskey’s *Damascus Station* to see the light of day. Read it now before it is banned.” And then as long as I’m on a roll with quotes, on the front cover we have none other than General David Petraeus saying, “The best spy novel I have ever read.” Quite honestly, it really is a goodie. If you’re intrigued with CIA stuff, with Syria, with the Middle East, with endless betrayals and shenanigans with a very real view of history and world topics today, this one’s up your alley. I love still another quote off the cover, “Set against the back-drop of a Syria pulsing with fear and rebellion, *Damascus Station* is a gripping thriller that offers a tested portrayal of espionage, love, loyalty and betrayal in one of the most difficult CIA assignments on the planet.” So there. I do think this is many steps above the “ordinary” spy novels one comes across these days. There’s an authenticity here that is unusual and the writing is superb.

So much for authors new to the booklet. Now some excellent new work from our favorites:

12. Don Winslow

-City on Fire

Anyone who has read almost any booklet over the past ten years knows what a nut I am about Don Winslow. He’s one of the best writers in the world. His best work was the three books on the Cartels and the best of those was the first one, *The Power of the Dog*. If you have not read that, you really should. My second favorite book of his was a one-off some years ago titled *The Winter of Frankie Machine*. What a great read. HOWEVER, this ain’t those. This is the first in a brand new Winslow trilogy and it is about as far away from Mexico as you can get, namely Providence, Rhode Island. Surprisingly, sleepy little Providence has been quite a hotbed of Mob activity for many years. Extending even into the statehouse, etc. True. So a perfect setting for Winslow. And at its heart, this book is about two criminal gangs, the Irish and the Italians (well now there’s something new) and how they battle back and forth to take control of this lucrative criminal empire. The lead character on the Irish side, Danny Ryan (no relation, but clearly a cool dude) strives for a more legitimate life but hasn’t the heart to move on from the life of crime. The action spreads from Providence to the glittering streets of Hollywood to the casinos of Las Vegas. To be very honest, this is not Winslow-esque in the sense of the earlier books I referenced. This book is to me, more like Mario Puzo’s, *The Godfather*. It’s a mob crime book. With lots more besides, but fundamentally, that’s what it’s about. Super easy to read and most enjoyable. Highly recommend it. After all, it is a Winslow. And one last “caution”... Winslow suggests that *City on Fire* is a “contemporary *Iliad*, a saga that’s been for generations a towering achievement of storytelling genius.” Well, I actually read the *Iliad* back in high school and frankly I like this better. He also references comparisons to the Aeneid, which I had the misfortune to read in Latin. Again, I like this one better.

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| 13. David Handler | <i>The Man Who Couldn't Miss</i> |
| 14. _____ | <i>The Man in the White Linen Suit</i> |
| 15. _____ | <i>The Man Who Wasn't All There</i> |

Now hopefully, you remember my over-the-top recommendation of David Handler from my last booklet when I wrote about *The Lady in the Silver Cloud*. Remember the wealthy older lady that was murdered in her Central Park West apartment possibly because in long-ago days, she had been a “hat-check girl” at the Copacabana and had a “connection” to Albert Anastasia. I loved that book and these three are very much in the same genre. All three feature Stuart Hoag the struggling novelist, ghost-writer, and very definitely part-time private eye. Along with his faithful, but cowardly, Basset Hound, Lulu. I do just love this series. You don't have to read them in order. They're fun to read, they're light, there are no blood-soaked Swedish bodies on the tundra and are very much of today.. No need to get into the specific plots of these three. Pick up any one and you will enjoy it. I did particularly enjoy a quote from Stuart, every bit an NYC CPW guy as he is staying at their country house near Lyme, CT. He goes out of necessity to a local Walmart. He muses, “it was the standard, cheerless, windowless, dimly lit gulag of a warehouse. Whenever I walk inside of a Walmart, I'm convinced we didn't win the Cold War. There were surveillance cameras everywhere, racks of cheap, utilitarian merchandise manufactured in a giant sweatshop in some impoverished land somewhere across the globe. The employees were so slack-jawed and dead-eyed that I swore they had been lobotomized. And then there was the smell of those sweaty hotdogs that had been going round and round on the rotating electric grill in the snack bar for the last 7 or 8 hours. I wonder where they're originally from. I wonder what is in them. Actually, no I didn't.” If this kind of funny take, albeit a bit snooty, tickles your funny bone, there are lots more... and the “mysteries” are very very entertaining .

Moving on from Handler, the following long admired authors and series should be quite familiar to you and thus will receive minimal verbiage from me:

16. Jack Carr	<i>In the Blood</i>
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Book five in this great series that started with *The Terminal List* featuring ex-Navy Seal Commander, James Reese. Another lad who can essentially kill you with any digit but who also has a seriously good brain and seriously understands the need for “accountability and retribution.” Here, now back in U.S. government good graces he teams up with CIA and the Mossad to provide another excellent “thriller” read. The series is on Prime starring Chris Pratt who has described his character, James Reese as “one rowdy Mother F-er.” True.

17. Mick Herron***Bad Actors***

Volume #8 in what probably is one of my all-time favorite series and definitely, “most favorite” in the espionage/thriller genre.. The series is referred to as the “Slough House” novels and has progressed with many wonderful continuing characters to now volume eight. Here, in brief,, a scandal erupts in MI-5 centering around First Desk Lady Diana Taverner. Moscow intelligence dabbles in and of course who is to the rescue but Jackson Lamb (fiction’s least politically correct character in the last 10 years) and the rest of the nerdowells of Slough House. Great stuff.

18. Jonathan Harries***The Bodyguard of Sarawak***

Yes, Jonathan is one of my best pals. (“You gotta problem with that?”) This is the third volume in Jonathan’s “family saga of dubious veracity.” The underlying premise is that for the last 2,000 years members of Jonathan’s family have been designated as assassins using a “Sika,” (a particularly nasty knife) to rid the world of seriously naughty bad folk. These are funny books; they are astoundingly historically and geographically sound and seriously entertaining. They really are excellent, and I would certainly start with volume One titled *The Tailor of Riga*. Next was *The Corrupt Salesman from Baghdad* and now here we are in Sarawak, Indonesia. And there are more to come. If you’re looking for a really cool, under-the -radar, superbly written little series that won’t bust your brain and will definitely leave you more knowledgeable than when you started and also with several good chuckles, go find these. I know they’re on Amazon. Get one and tell me I’m wrong.

19. Alan Parks***May God Forgive***

Book Five in the Harry McCoy series all taking place in the 1970’s in Glasgow, Scotland. Harry is a true old-school cop not always viewed with love and admiration by the mucky mucks of Glasgow PD or local Poles. Whatever. Here Glasgow is a city mourning an arson attack that has left five dead and no one is behind bars. The pressure is mounting. Can Harry come to the rescue? Duh. Again, if you’re looking for a tidy little collection of five wonderful books starting with *Bloody January* and ending with this one, have at these.. Readily available, excellent writing and much as I’ve never been to Glasgow, I feel like I have with these.

20. Anthony E. Horowitz***With a Mind to Kill***

Will there ever be a bookletter without Anthony Horowitz. Quite possibly not. The guy is just so damn prolific and excellent. This is the 3rd in the James Bond trilogy written by him and authorized by the Ian Fleming estate. We’re at M’s funeral, who’s missing but James Bond. Did

James actually kill M? Hmm. Read on and see how this unfolds. If you're at all a "Bond" nut, and guess who is, this is just another wonderful little trilogy that's fun to read and doesn't leave you wanting. Just to remind you the first two are *Trigger Mortis* and *Forever and a Day*.

21. Caimh (pronounced Queeve) McDonnell

Firewater Blues

Okay, big finish. You know I love this guy. He is insanely funny and yes, Irish and lots of inside Irish stuff. But some of you who've read many of them have always responded that he is just a great find. This is book six in what even McDonnell acknowledges is "the increasingly inaccurate titled "Dublin Trilogy." Several of the usual suspects are front and center ,starting with Bunny McGarry, former Dublin hard-ass cop and man who regularly operates on the edge. His 12-year-old, going on 37 side-kick Declan, and assorted other "characters" including "a band of kick-ass nuns" who do very little other than totally send up the Garda Siochana (the police force in Ireland) to say nothing of politicians and other self-absorbed pomposities which percolate throughout Ireland and South Dublin. If you haven't delved into this series, you really should go back and start with the first volume, *A Man with One of Those Faces*. I beg you to read one of this series. They really really are great crime stories but outrageously funny. You will laugh a lot.

And so at last we come to the end of THE BOOKS. Now a few television observations:

1. Slow Horses

Well, I can't believe this will surprise anybody. This is the first television season of as I described above, my all-time favorite spy series by Mick Herron. It really is terrifically well-done. I will admit a little complicated in episode One but the rest is just excellent. Stick with it. And who better to be Jackson Lamb, the slovenly staggeringly politically incorrect but absolutely cool ring-leader of the failed spies at Slough House than Gary Oldman. And in a remarkable twist, guess who plays George Smiley in the move "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy". To say nothing of Winston Churchill in "Darkest Hour." What a great actor. And he is surrounded by tons of talent in this wonderful version of "Slow Horses."

2. Peaky Blinders

The sixth and final season of "Peaky" maintains the quality of this great show. As you may recall it centers around a powerful criminal gang in Birmingham, England starting at about 1919 and run by returning war hero, Thomas Shelby and his family. The cast is absolutely brilliant starting with Cillian Murphy as Thomas Shelby and with Paul Anderson as his very naughty

brother and up until just this last season included the great Helen McCrory who played Polly Gray, their sister. McCrory sadly, died of cancer just before the filming of season six. And was missed. But season six was an absolute fitting culmination of this entire series. Much awarded and recognized as terrific television. You will value subtitles !

3. The Terminal List

This is the new Amazon Prime thriller starring Chris Pratt and is based upon the novel of the same name by Jack Carr. That novel is one of my favorite books of the last five years, and I do think they have done a very good job of capturing the book in the film. U.S. Navy Seal Lieutenant Commander James Reece has been betrayed in Afghanistan and his family has been murdered. A very bad boy to do this to. And "The Terminal List" references the list he has made of those people who have to "be accountable and retribute" for these deeds. I loved it. I don't think it was quite as good as the book honestly but if you didn't read the book, or even if you did, I think it's tremendous entertainment.

4. Bosch

Still one of the best shows on television. Originally on Amazon Prime, now Season Seven, titled "Bosch Legacy" is on Amazon Freevee which includes ads (harumph). Based on the novels written by Michael Connelly (in my view the single best writer in America today) and he is heavily involved in this production as well. The seven seasons all revolve around Homicide detective Hieronymus (Harry) Bosch of the LAPD. Although in season 7 he is now retired from same. But they're just wonderfully shot, brilliant music, brilliant casting, great writing so if you're at all in the mood for a good old-fashioned detective show that's very contemporary, this is the ticket.

5. The Irish Pub

Now this is a bit of a sleeper. It's on Amazon Freevee (I know, I know, the sacrifices we make). Nonetheless, this is a wonderful little show that takes you on a tour of pubs throughout Ireland, no continuing narratives, no criminal activity....just a wonderful opportunity to literally experience up close and personal many of the fascinating little pubs that dot Ireland. I think it's an hour and a half and I promise you won't regret it. You will smile a lot It and you will want to go have a pint of Guinness in one of these pubs asap.

Once again, thanks for reading. Hope you enjoyed and if you're inclined ,do send a little bounce-back email saying you got the letter. Enjoy.Brendan

Brendan