

Title: Transient Beings

Author: Patrick Semple

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"Transient Beings" is a novel set in a rectory in rural Ireland in the 1970s. It is a surprising, intelligent and brave story of addiction and one man's honest examination of his beliefs. The novel shows what life can really be like for Church of Ireland rectors. It exposes the human beings behind the job. The novel gives a voice to those people whose life is religion and who find they are forced to reassess their own beliefs.

There are expectations laid upon the rectory family that puts them in a different category from 'ordinary people'. When the child of a rector gets into trouble at school, a teacher will often say: '...and your father a clergyman'. People who live in rectories are as human as anybody else. 'There is no greater heresy than that the office sanctifies the holder of it.' This is as true for the rector's wife as it is for the rector.

The novel is made up of transient beings. Some come from the past and pass through the present and some in the present refuse to leave the past. The rector's life is changing in ways he does not yet understand. How long does this idyllic rectory in the heart of rural Ireland in the 1970's hide the secrets of those who live behind its walls?

Patrick Semple's writing has been described as having a depth of learning and an earnestness of purpose with a selfless immersion in the lives of the characters in the best traditions of John McGahern and Brian Moore.