



## FRAGMENTED; debut novel release

*Multi-layered family saga that shines a light on a unique period in Irish history when 100 Guards joined the United Nations*

**DUBLIN, April 10, 2024** - For the first time, Pete McHugh's debut novel, **FRAGMENTED**, shines a light on a unique period in Irish history - the late 1950s - when nearly 100 Guards joined the United Nations and built fascinating lives for themselves as peacekeepers in the Middle East. As they rose through the ranks, the Irish Peacekeepers became highly regarded within the UN community for their integrity and their ability to work effectively in dangerous warzones. Many went on to hold the most senior positions of command in UN missions.

Spanning twelve tumultuous years from 1984 to 1996, **FRAGMENTED** is a fictionalised story of one such UN family, who as adults are back working in the region, having spent their childhoods traversing the Middle East between Peacekeeping missions. Set against the backdrop of the Lebanese civil war and the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict, **FRAGMENTED** provides historical accuracy and cultural insights within a poignant human story. It portrays in searing detail the trauma of everyday life in war-torn countries, and the collateral damage to relationships and mental health caused by the often-used escapes of drugs and alcohol.

Eleven years in gestation, Pete completed **FRAGMENTED** on 6th October 2023, a day before the Hamas attack on Israel. Several of the novel's scenes happened to be set in locations which have since become very familiar to everyone: Gaza refugee camps, an Israeli kibbutz, the West Bank, and southern Lebanon.

The novel draws on Pete's experiences growing up in a UN Peacekeeper's family; born in Jerusalem, he and his family lived across the Middle East for over thirty years. It weaves personal experiences and entertaining anecdotes – sleeping in corridors to avoid snipers, meeting a Dire Straits band member, drinking coffee with a Mossad spy – into a work of fiction, thereby bringing an unusual and little-known period of Irish history to life.

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