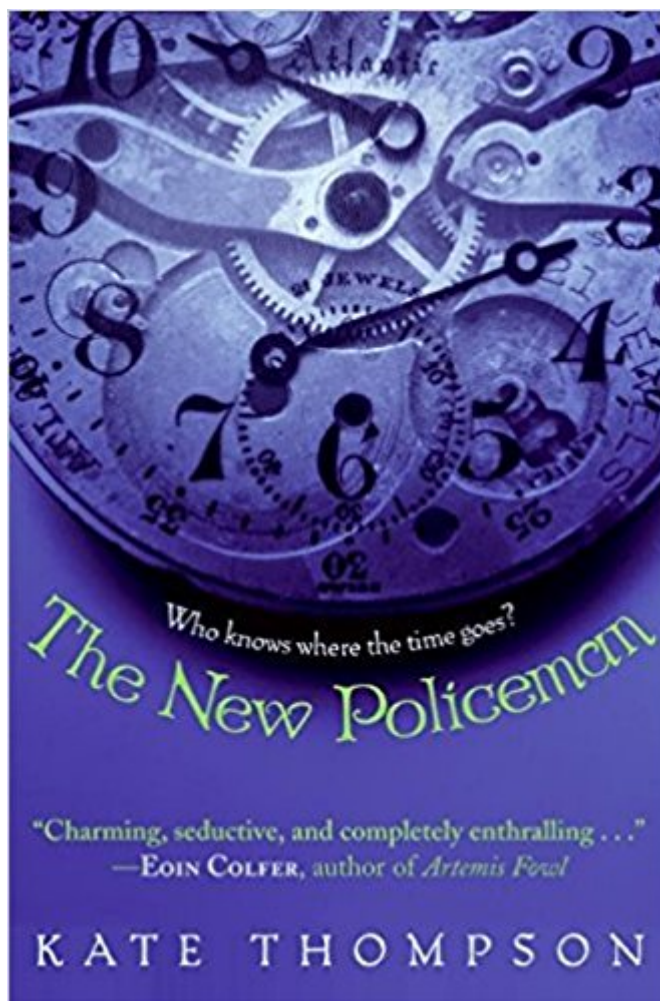


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The New Policeman (New Policeman Trilogy)



Synopsis

Who knows where the time goes? There never seems to be enough time in Kinvara, or anywhere else in Ireland for that matter. When J.J.'s mother says time's what she really wants for her birthday, J.J. decides to find her some. He's set himself up for an impossible task . . . until a neighbor reveals a secret. There's a place where time stands still— at least, it's supposed to. J.J. can make the journey there, but he'll have to vanish from his own life to do so. Can J.J. find the leak between the two worlds? Will a shocking rumor about his family's past come back to haunt him? And what does it all have to do with the village's new policeman . . . ?

Book Information

Series: New Policeman Trilogy (Book 1)

Paperback: 464 pages

Publisher: Greenwillow Books; Reprint edition (April 22, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0061174297

ISBN-13: 978-0061174292

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 1 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 36 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #588,896 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #64 in [Books > Teens >](#)

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 7—10— J.J. Liddy, 15, is descended from a proud old family of Irish musicians. In his small village of Kinvara, playing traditional music is a way of life. Lately, though, it seems that the townspeople have less and less time to fulfill daily responsibilities and very few moments left over to make music and enjoy life. In exasperation, J.J.'s mother asks for more time as her birthday gift. Unaware of any magical implications, the teen innocently sets out to find out where the time has gone. This search leads him into the heart of Tír na nÓg, the land of eternal youth, where he discovers the truth about some family secrets and the identity of the rather hopeless new town policeman, whose mysterious investigation parallels J.J.'s quest. This novel delivers richly tantalizing morsels of Irish mythology as traditional characters dance across the

pages. In a story interspersed with snippets of Irish jigs that reflect the progress of the tale, Thompson has masterfully woven together melody and harmony into a tune that will lead readers to a splendid, rollicking crescendo. Some unfamiliar Irish terminology might make comprehension difficult for those who struggle with reading, but the glossary will help mature readers. Those who follow this story through to the end will not be disappointed. —Heather M. Campbell, Philip S. Miller Library, Castle Rock, CO Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Starred Review Heart-pounding Irish music is the common ground between material and magical worlds in this ambitious fantasy, which begins in western Ireland. When J. J. Liddy is 15, his mother jokingly asks for a birthday present of more time. From an eccentric neighbor, J. J. learns to his astonishment that his mother's request may not be impossible to fill. Bravely venturing into an alternate fairy world, J. J. takes on a thrilling, epic quest in which he confronts dark family rumors and tries to repair a cosmic time leak between his world and "the land of eternal youth." Thompson packs her mesmerizing, chaotic novel with Irish culture (including phrases defined in a glossary), interconnected mysteries, and sly questions about the stresses of contemporary life and the age-old frictions between religion and folklore. Readers will quickly overlook any creaky plot connections and fall eagerly into the rich, comic language and the captivating characters and scenes, particularly those that feature musicians (including talented J. J.), who play the "wild, anarchic music" that bridges worlds. Musical scores for Irish tunes (some written by Thompson) close each chapter in this soulful, wildly imagined tale that has already won several British awards, including the Guardian Children's Book Prize and the Whitbread Children's Book Award. Suggest it to fans of O. R. Melling's *The Hunter's Moon* (2005) and Eoin Colfer's *Artemis Fowl* books. Gillian Engberg Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Three stars for the first half and four stars for the second. It took me a long while to get into this book, as the chapters (especially at the beginning) are very short, and it takes a long time for the story to really get going. Once it did, though, I enjoyed it. The music between chapters was a nice touch, albeit one I probably would have appreciated more if I could have heard the music somehow (prime opportunity for the audiobook right there). I also liked the way the book describes traditional music (I really want to go to a ceilidh now) and the way the speech patterns sounded authentically Irish. I also want to note that I had a really hard time getting an angle on how old JJ was supposed to be. He

seemed on the younger side, but then he was talking to his friend about going clubbing? So some confusion there. And the tone of the book is similarly ambiguous -- I'm not sure if it's the fairy-tale nature or what, but the book's not quite a MG but not quite a YA either. High Middle Grade, I suppose. I remember a lot of buzz around this one when it came out, and I'm not sure that it was really all that, but it was a fun read.

Unexpected surprise. I was slow to gather all the facts. After becoming immersed in the delightful story line I figured that there was so much more fun to the family dynamics. I was highly suspicious of the policeman. BUT IT was an interesting and fun romp. This did come together and was a satisfying story. A little slow when JJ entered the other side, but understandable given the time issue. Great mix of true and fantasy, and I loved the blend. Almost made me believe in the other world where time never passed.

If you haven't explored the Irish fairy world, step into this story by Kate Thompson and discover why it's so easy to be lured into staying in Tir n'a N'og. There's a definite time problem that might be solved if you can only remember why you're there. This fast-paced story won't let you down. There's so much charming whimsy laced with everyday life to give you a delightful view of the characters and scenery. I just wish I could hear the music as I paged through the chapters. Thank you Kate Thompson for so much fun.

This novel was surprisingly good, not that I was expecting less, but more that I wasn't sure what to expect at all. The overall premise of the book doesn't really do the actual story justice. I love how Thompson has woven together Ireland's past and present, the ancient, tribal, mythological version of the nation with the present, Christian-influenced nation we see today. Although Thompson lifted the core of her fantasy from Irish mythology, I still feel this is an original fantasy because it's rare that we get to see fantasies using Irish mythology. We see a lot of Norse and Austro-Hungarian myth, with elves, dragons, dwarves, as well as Greek and Roman, but it's rare that we get a taste of Irish mythology, which is characteristically different, both in its creatures and the world in which they live. What I found most interesting was the correlation that Thompson makes between the Irish mythology, which is treated as fact in the text, and the Irish culture. The music is thought to have come from the fairies, and when J.J. discovers the world of the fairies, who are actually much more like humans than our traditional view of fairies, he discovers that time never passes in their land, so they have no fear or worry about anything. Thompson's theory spoken through the text creates a

connection between the Irish people and their love for music, beer, dancing and general merriment with their mythology. It's a fun take on Ireland's past and present, but, in a way, it may not be too far off. Even though they may not have actually gotten their music from fairies, there are theories about how cultures and languages emerge. The Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis works off of the belief that a culture's language is formed out of its surroundings, thus why the Eskimos would have 30+ words for snow. There may be some credence to why Ireland and the Gaelic people have been historically very different from the rest of the people's of Europe--why they've valued music and merriment, relationships and family over conquering other lands or industrial progress. Perhaps Thompson's theory is correct, and the Irish music does come from the immortals who live in TÁfÂ- r na n'Áfâ œg, the land of eternal youth. I highly recommend this book to all readers 11+.[...]

Really enjoyed the world-building, character development, the planting of future possibilities in the text without giving one thing away, the lyrical writing, the inter-personal connections based in the best of human nature, the humor, the deep knowing that we are related as another animal species with the rest of the life on this planet, the intuitive knowledge that we are more than we consciously admit to ourselves (we can sing, dadgummit!). Looking forward to the next installment!

I couldn't put this down. Knowing what I do of Celtic mythology, I saw through it fairly quickly, but the pleasure remained--how could the author possibly make this work out for us? But it all ties up neatly, right down to Bran. Lovely, lovely tale!

What a fun mystery! Enjoyed every minute of it! Will definitely be reading more of this author's works. Time well spent.

My daughter loved this book.

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