



***When all is said* - Anne Griffin**

Maurice Hannigan is sitting at the bar in the Rainsford House Hotel, in the Irish town of Rainsford. His wife has passed away two years ago and his son lives abroad. The last two years without his wife have been very hard on Maurice. This evening he thinks back on his life. At 84 he is finally ready to tell his story. He does so by toasting to the five most important people in his life: his brother Tony, his sister-in-law Noreen, his daughter Molly, his son Keving and last, but not least, his wife Sadie.

As a small boy Maurice is sent to school, but after years of barely any progress is sent to the Dollard's house to work. At the house he is mistreated by Hugh Dollard's son. So much so that Maurice is scarred for life, visibly and invisibly. Maurice's brother Tony dies in his teens from tuberculosis. Up to then Tony has always been a big influence on Maurice. Tony's loss is a heavy one.

A little later in life when Maurice has taken over his father's farm, he meets the love of his life. Instantly a romance sparks between Maurice and Sadie. Their lives aren't easy. Sadie's sister Noreen is suffering from an undiagnosed psychological disorder and lives in an asylum. On top of that the couple has quite some problems getting pregnant. At last they succeed. First comes Molly, later Kevin. Will Maurice and Sadie finally find some peace and quiet? And will Maurice ever share the secret he has kept from his days working at the Dollard's?

Anne Griffin has written a master piece. *When All Is Said* is gripping and heart-breaking, but at the same time also hopeful and heartening. It's a powerful story about making choices in life and bearing the consequences. I was shocked to read that this novel is Griffin's debut.

Griffin was born in Dublin and worked for years at the Waterstones bookstores in both Dublin and London. In 2013 she began writing. She started with short stories, leading up to publishing this first novel in 2019. And even better, it is being translated in several other languages, including Dutch! (*Als alles is gezegd*, Harper Collins, 2019)

If you are looking for a page-turner headlining an interesting character full of depth, look no further. *When All Is Said* is the book for you!

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