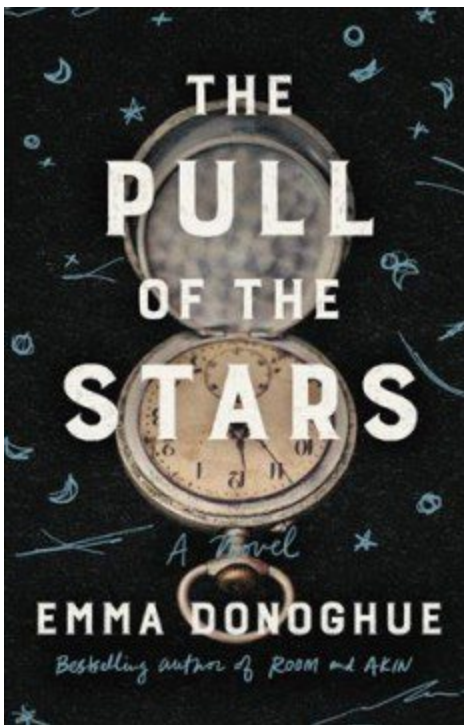




Read & Recommended



The Pull of the Stars by Emma Donoghue

Set during the 1918 Spanish-flu pandemic, this novel was being written before COVID-19 started to dominate global headlines. The final copy-editing was done with the help of a mid-wife (who was quarantined) and an ER doctor (who was working during the current pandemic) which, Donoghue said "filled me with a sense of urgency to get it right. Not just the symptoms and the procedures, but the psychology of nurses and doctors in desperate times." One of Donoghue's previous novels, "Frog Music", took place in 1876 San Francisco during a smallpox epidemic. "It might seem rather callous but an epidemic is a narrative goldmine. It ups the stakes for the most everyday interactions between characters."

Born in Dublin in 1969, EMMA DONOGHUE is an Irish emigrant twice over: she spent eight years in Cambridge, England, before moving to Canada's London, Ontario. She is best known for her novels, which range from the historical (*The Wonder*, *Slammerkin*, *Life Mask*, *The Sealed Letter*) to the contemporary (*Akin*, *Stir-Fry*, *Hood*, *Landing*). Her international bestseller *Room* was a New York Times Best Book of 2010 and was a finalist for the Man Booker, Commonwealth, and Orange Prizes; her screen adaptation, directed by Lenny Abrahamson, was nominated for four Academy Awards.