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The New Policeman

Cassandra Fugal

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Thompson, Kate. *The New Policeman*. Greenwillow, 2007. ISBN 9780061174285. \$16.99.
441 p.

Reviewer: Cassandra Fugal

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Fantasy Fiction; Folklore;

Subject: Music--Fiction; Ireland--Fiction; Space and time--Fiction; Books--Reviews;

In the small village of Kinvara, as well as the rest of Ireland, there never seems to be enough time, and each day slips by even quicker than the last. To fulfill his mother's half-joking birthday wish, J.J. Liddy sets out to find her more time. In his quest, J.J. learns more about his family's past and discovers that the slippage of time is more than matter of perception but a fact: time is leaking out of his world into the Tír na n'Óg or "Land of Eternal Youth." To stop the leak, J.J. travels to Tír na n'Óg and meets figures out of Irish mythology who are more real than he ever imagined.

The short chapters are told from the different perspectives of several characters, including the new policeman in the village who is on a quest of his own, but he just cannot remember what it is. Although there are some gaps and seemingly incongruent elements to the story, especially the new policeman, Thompson is able to pull them together to create a thoroughly enjoyable story. Part of the book's charm is the interweaving of traditional Irish music and dance as well as mythology and history. Each chapter ends with a musical score of traditional Irish music whose title closely relates to the chapter. The only element that could make the story more enchanting would be an accompanying CD with all the music so richly described in the text.