

RONAN HESSION PANENKA

CLIENT: BLUEMOOSE BOOKS

PUBLISHER: BLUEMOOSE BOOKS

MATERIAL: FULL MS (240 PP)

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RIGHTS HELD: WORLD EXCL. ENGLISH
LANGUAGE

RIGHTS SOLD: SLOVAKIA (ARTFORUM), TURKEY
(KETEBE), GERMAN (BLESSING VERLAG)



SHORTLISTED FOR THE BOOKS ARE MY BAG AWARDS!

"His name was Joseph, but for years they had called him Panenka, a name that was his sadness and his story."

Panenka has spent 25 years living with the disastrous mistakes of his past, which have made him an exile in his hometown and cost him his dearest relationships.

Now aged 50, Panenka begins to rebuild an improvised family life with his estranged daughter and her seven-year-old son. Faced with losing everything, he meets Esther, a woman who has come to live in the town to escape her own disappointments. Together, they find resonance in each other's experiences and learn new ways to let love into their broken lives.

RONAN HESSION, also known as the Dublin-based songwriter Mumblin' Deaf Ro, is the bestselling author of **Leonard and Hungry Paul** (over 50 000 copies sold), shortlisted for several literary prizes incl. the **Irish Book of The Year** and **British Book of The Year**, and the **One Dublin One Book pick of 2021**.

PRAISE FOR PANENKA

"A timeless and touchingly singular story of regret and redemption " **Waterstones**

"... a tonic for our times... Hession's writing is absolutely beautiful..." **The New European**

"Ronan Hession is not just a fine writer but one of Ireland's most original thinkers on literary matters and the craft of good writing." **The Sunday Times**

"It's as good on the world's most popular sport as *Fever Pitch* was, and former goalie Albert Camus would be proud of this diehard Watford fan. What Hession brings to his work is a songwriter's sensibility, so his novels feel like a long song as he returns again and again to the damage humans can cause when they can't – or won't – be honest with one another, or themselves. The relationship between the taciturn Panenka and his daughter is one any father can relate to as they dance around their feelings... Fans of his debut have been sweating that this might be the literary version of that

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difficult second album, but they needn't worry as Hession has struck this one sweetly into the back of the net." **Louder Than War**

"*Panenka* is a subtle masterpiece: the fascinating painting on the cover art could not be more appropriate. With careful, intentional strokes, Hession paints a word-portrait of a man who is neither better nor worse than any of us: he is simply a flawed human being who has made mistakes, who faces obstacles, who tries to live his life in relation to those around him. A good heart beats at the centre of this book, and though *Panenka* is sadder in tone than Hession's first novel, it still has that warm glow of gentle faith in humanity, in the power of connection, in finding a way in the world that makes sense for each one of us. It is a beautiful book, and I loved it." **Helspells**

"Rónán Hession is an exceptional writer. He creates the most beautiful stories with the most gorgeous, yet ordinary, characters and, with a stroke of a pen, captures the reader and immerses them completely into his world. Contemplative and expressive, *Panenka* is quite simply a joy to read, and reread again. A novel with great depth exploring human fragility and vulnerability, *Panenka* is another extraordinary read from an extraordinary writer." **Swirl and Thread**

"*Panenka* is a great novel.

It's a great novel about life and a great novel about people.

But it is also a great novel about football. And Hession is not afraid to admit it." **Niall Bourke**

PRAISE FOR LEONARD AND HUNGRY PAUL

'*God, what a voice Ronan has. It is spectacular and already feels like a cult classic. I was absolutely hooked.*' - Donal Ryan, Man Booker and Costa listed author.

'*It is a beautiful work of art.*' Irish Book of The Year winner and Women's Prize short listed – Kit de Waal.

'*A gentle masterpiece.*' Foyles – Book of The Month

« *What book last changed your thinking?* »

« *Leonard and Hungry Paul by Rónán Hession. It's about the most profound things: kindness, ordinary people. I loved it because it made me think differently about what books can be and what life is like.* »

Kit de Waal, Interview in the new Statesman