

Idioms and idiomatic usage -

eg p. 74 to visit something on somebody,
p. 88 the age of majority,
p. 88 in the best interests of....,
p. 138 eat one's cake and have it

4 to rest one's case
17 derail (Fiona's train of thought)
19 unruly (hair for example)
35 domestic morass
37 to undo one's case (oneself etc.)
38 beyond the reach of
38 to rap the knuckles of (F - authority)
41 aloft
45 crabbed (Fiona)
48 unhealthily long
55 circuitous (way home)
61 fawningly (received)
65 ferocious details
87 inalienable
91 in the contemporary manner /with
smartphone)
9 a blend of desolation and outrage
95 an improbable association of hospitals
with kindness
95 low-slung
96 airport..altered destination....
motorway signs
96 rakish

97 Suddenly the social worker.. an animated
black woman in a white skin
97 withering self-consciousness
99 the moment was unfurling or erupting
102 she had squandered enough gravitas
106 bumptiousness
114 an interfering busybody
117 touching solemnity
122 give pause - make one think
124 harmless biddies
135 grew/shrunk
143 a movement as imperceptible as
continental drift
148 the sense of occasion
149 ...the general proliferation of lavatories
and showers had not yet begun
173 to summon her husband
177 bleakness
177 The thaw was neither quick nor linear
202 mind a merciful blank
211 self-contained (F)
212 petty fears
213 uneasily

Fascinating formulations:

p. 24 'Life accelerating to people a small village clustered on a baby grand'.
p. 75 'Not men who ran the world but men who made it run'
p- 102 'squandered enough gravitas'
p. 102 'another grown up with a view, a grown up further diminished by the special
irrelevance that haunts an elderly lday' (cf 'harmless biddies' p. 124)
p. 122 'monochrome exposure' (Adam to parents' religion)
p. 125 'a nest of gossips and expertise' (Gray's Inn)
p. 127 'pathetic' 2 x
p. 128 'The vitality of the unsaid (during an argument between Fiona and Jack)
p. 128 'Contrition wrapped in complaints' (Jack)

DISCUSSION What do they want t? 1) lang 2) plot) 3) menas 4) sympathies?

Passages to read?:

131 ff marital breakdown, children suffer -
15/16 through to the sea imagery

What about the plot? Cf reviews

Alternation between private life and Adam's conundrum

Digressions re legal cases

Connections between the two plots

Use of dialogue, digression (eg visiting Adam) and reported speech (esp. court, marital arguments)

Style - register - humour (riny/occasional cynicism) - metaphor

NB Proportions of different parts etc. Length of court scene, visit to the hospital, second meeting.

Time: First is in three (early summer) days, Four and Five towards Christmas.

Reason - religion - emotiona (?)

Where do your sympathies lie?

age - ageing

age - age=time in their relationship 193/4

169 age separates them even in the kiss
how they are ageing 21 (Glimpse an
adult in a 10 yr-old face)

61 how Fiona is childlike in the mornings
before putting on adult's armour

146 Fiona's life in N/c including sex and
alcohol at 16

192 sex when she was young

102 another grown-up with a view, a
grown-up further diminished by the special
irrelevance that haunts an elderly lady
cf 164 Adam perceives Fiona as the grown-
up

Adam - p. 84, p.104,

excitable innocence, childlike openness,
unworldliness,

endearing but vulnerable
p. 108

110 hunger in his look

35 18 is the age of legal autonomy

83 Scarman - under 16 = child (Q?)

98 one confused little puppy

103 adolescent/professor/child Please
Miss

113 sixth former, star pupil

YOUNG AND FOOLISH - Yeats. 2nd stanza 117
and 201

139 1st letter loves being young and foolish

140 innocence and warmth (her perception)

142 He n e e d s to talk to her

159 is 18 can be where he likes

161 vulnerable innocence

162 boy

168 small child in shock

170 (he seems to) shake himself free

210 just a child, a lovely boy

213 passion for life

115 his innocent eagerness made him
impregnable

159 adolescent exasperation

161 vulnerable innocence

213 passion for life

welfare

her musings at length 15/16

cf She was supposed to look after Adam's welfare, something social - no child is an island, he wanted meaning from her

saved - 158 Adam

saved in his poem 109

deliverance 73

comments re money - 3, 132, 179

Fiona's life - old and foolish (half-quote) with nephews (135))

cf ageing (above)

134 abandoned herself to work cf 62 ready to be absorbed.

17 falling in love

24 family

44/5 career

87 own poetry in youth

93ff experience in hospital (also re age gap)

110, 112 - emptied while talking to Adam.

192 young sex

146 in N/c

Her childlessness

135 kids visit

136 afterwards

207 no child of hers will wear a uniform

fake

1, 159, where is the bit about fake sex?