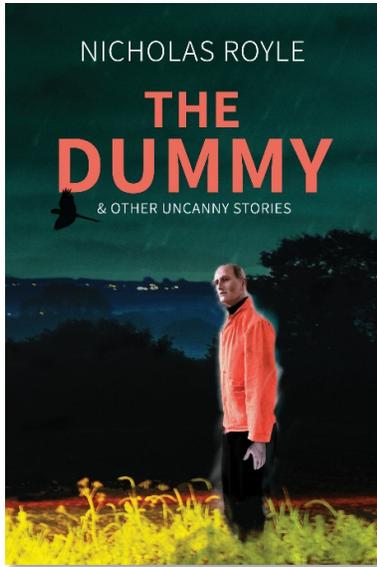


SWAN RIVER PRESS



Pub. Date: May 2018

Cover Art: Bill Bulloch

Retail Price: €35.00

ISBN: 978-1-78380-022-3 (hbk)

181 pages, 129mm x 198mm



NICHOLAS ROYLE is the author of two previous collections, *Mortality* and *Ornithology*, as well as *In Camera* (with David Gledhill). His seven novels include *The Director's Cut*, *Antwerp*, and *First Novel*. Reader in Creative Writing at the Manchester Writing School at Manchester Metropolitan University, he is head judge of the annual Manchester Fiction Prize and series editor of Best British Short Stories. He also runs Nightjar Press, publishing original short stories in chapbook format.

THE DUMMY & OTHER UNCANNY STORIES

Nicholas Royle

"An uncanny effect often arises when the boundary between fantasy and reality is blurred . . ." – Sigmund Freud

Nicholas Royle's stories are "immaculately sinister", according to Olivia Laing in the *Times Literary Supplement*, while Phil Baker, in the *Sunday Times*, described Royle as "a real craftsman of disquiet".

In his third collection, *The Dummy & Other Uncanny Stories*, Royle focuses on archetypes and phenomena that, through their particular melding of the familiar and the unfamiliar, produce uneasy, or uncanny, effects. In these stories he writes about doppelgängers, ghosts, dummies, disconnected body parts, impaired vision, the dead and the prospect of death, not without a macabre sense of humour.

These stories reflect Royle's continuing development as an exponent of the form, in which he is always seeking to learn and to grow, and to push against boundaries.

CONTENTS

- "The Other Man"
- "The Blind Man"
- "Sitting Tenant"
- "The Trees"
- "Hide and Seek"
- "The Blink"
- "The Empty Flat"
- "The Dummy"
- "Maths Tower"
- "Dead End"
- "The Cellar"
- "The Reunion"
- "Moving Out"
- "Jayne Anne Phillips"
- "The Family Room"
- "Cuckoo"
- "This Video Does Not Exist"
- "Lancashire"

PRAISE FOR *THE DUMMY*

*"Royle's dark fiction is always worth reading . . .
His storytelling is impeccable, his plots always interesting
and his characters credible."*

– SFRevu

Brian J. Showers ■ brian@swanriverpress.ie

www.swanriverpress.ie