

Winterland by Alan Glynn.  
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A petty criminal called Noel Rafferty is gunned down in cold blood in a Dublin beer garden in an apparently motiveless crime. Members of his family gather in his mother's home to bring her tea and sympathy, among them his aunt Gina and uncle, also named Noel Rafferty. A little while later, Noel Rafferty leaves the family and at some point thereafter is in a car accident which kills him.

Gina, together with the rest of the family, is devastated by the double fatality, but she is also puzzled and then suspicious at the juxtaposition of the two deaths and the identically named victims.

Winterland tells the story of Gina's increasingly desperate efforts to find an explanation for the death of her nephew and her brother and as her enquiries broaden other people are brought into the frame: the shady property developer Paddy Norton and his sidekick Fitz and an up and coming politician with a dodgy past called Larry Bolger.

This is a pacy, exciting and extremely atmospheric novel, redolent of the Dublin in which it is set and making an eloquent comment on the corrupt and corrupting nexus between the worlds of high finance and politics.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh