

## **GOD ON A BICYCLE - Synopsis**

### **Short Description – 50 Words**

*God on a Bicycle* starts with a rower's oar hitting a dead horse on the River Liffey in Dublin and ends two years later in a devastating climax on a lake north of Barcelona. It is a love story, a thriller and an Olympic sporting quest.

### **Longer Description – 250 Words**

*God on a Bicycle* is a thriller, a love story and an Olympic sporting quest, in which three intersecting strands of story encompass murder, drugs, grief, romance and the transformative agony of intense competition.

The story begins on a freezing winter morning on the River Liffey in Dublin in a boat with rower Evan O'Gorman. On one bank is Evan's coach, his father Rocky, a man fuelled by a long rage at the tragic death of Evan's mother and his own failure to go to an Olympics. On the other bank, is a Spanish girl Zuriñe, the troubled daughter of an artist mother and Basque terrorist father.

When Evan's oar hits a dead horse in the water, he is thrown from the boat and this starts an irresistible chain of events that leads him from rowing defeat by his great rival Synott and humiliating eviction from the Irish national squad, through the psychological trauma of the breakup of a relationship, to exile in Barcelona where Zuriñe has become involved with the psychopathic drug trafficker, Aiert. As Evan searches vainly for Zuriñe, he must find a way to survive and rebuild his shattered self in an alien culture. Meanwhile, converging forces are sucking Evan, and also his father and others back in Ireland, further and further into a world of danger and violence of which they have little understanding and from which Zuriñe is trying desperately to escape. Ultimately, Evan faces a frantic flight for his life across Spain that leads to a World Rowing Championships and a devastating conclusion on a lake north of Barcelona.