



PENELOPE THOMS

THE STORY TELLER

Penelope Thoms launched her new book *Seanchai* on Friday 16th January at The Carnegie Arts Centre, Kenmare. I got to ask her a few questions about her book & her life as a writer.

What inspired you to write SEANCHAI? It is the back story to my play, "A New Year's Tale" which I wrote in 2005 while living in Maybury Cottage in Kenmare. It is a dark, monologic play that came to me in dreams/automatic writing.

How did your interest in writing originate? I have been writing in one format or another since I was young. I always wrote poetry and then professionally worked as an editor, book reviewer and business writer.

Name one entity that you feel supported you outside of family members. The joy I take in nature (including my two border collies), the "living history" that exists in Ireland. We literally walk it every day. Also the voices of the "ole wans" who still remember the time of the banshee, the white woman, the fairy circles & the spirits who inhabit this small island.

What was the hardest part of writing your book? Linking the characters. In the first draft, one of the last chapters was the first chapter. Brigid tied it all together and that was my "aha" moment - like a celtic knot.

Do you have any advice for other writers? Trust your instincts, your dreams. Listen to the voices of others for we all have stories to tell. Be willing to throw out what doesn't work and keep what you believe in.



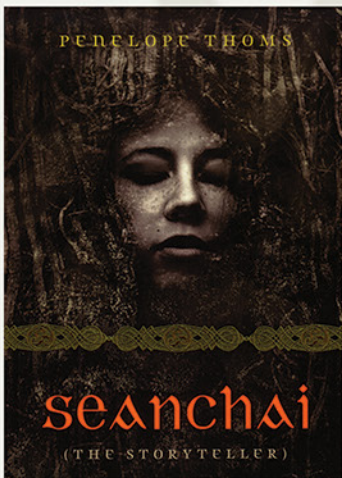
Penelope Thoms, Claire Bunbury & Stephen Johnson



Kit McCafferty & Penelope Thoms



Edward Egan & daughter Emily Egan



SEANCHAI IS NOW AVAILABLE TO BUY IN ALL MAJOR BOOK STORES AND ONLINE

Amazon Reader

"SPELLBINDING ! The slow and careful weaving together of the various characters' dramatic, romantic, and dangerous stories kept me turning pages".

