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## John Spillane "The madwoman of cork"

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To-day Is the feast day of Saint Anne Pray for me I am the madwoman of Cork.

Yesterday In Castle Street I saw two goblins at my feet I saw a horse without a head Carrying the dead To the graveyard Near Turner's cross.

I am the madwoman of Cork No one talks to me.

When I walk in the rain The children throw stones at me Old men persecute me And women close their doors. When I die Believe me They'll set me on fire.

I am the madwoman of Cork I have no sense.

Sometimes With an eagle in my brain I can see a train Crashing at the station. If I told people that They'd choke me -Then where would I be?

I am the madwoman of Cork The people hate me.

When Canon Murphy died I wept on his grave That was twenty-five years ago. When I saw him just now In Dunbar Street He had clay in his teeth He blest me.

I am the madwoman of Cork The clergy pity me.

I see death In the branches of a tree Birth in the feathers of a bird. To see a child with one eye Or a woman buried in ice Is the worst thing And cannot be imagined

I am the madwoman of Cork My mind fills me.

I should like to be young To dress up in silk And have nine children. I'd like to have red lips But I'm eighty years old I have nothing But a small house with no windows

I am the madwoman of Cork Go away from me.

And if I die now Don't touch me. I want to sail in a long boat From here to Roches Point And there I will anoint the sea With oil of alabaster.

I am the Madwoman of Cork And to-day is the feast day of Saint Anne. Feed me.

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