

**First-time Irish author's novel is sold across Europe & America**

When Sinéad Moriarty moved from London to Dublin in August, little did her family realise that it was welcoming home a literary sensation. In fact, until late October her family had no idea that Sinéad's creative writing was anything more than a hobby and only her husband knew that Sinéad had become a huge hit in publishing circles around the world. But over Sunday dinner a month ago Sinéad announced that she had some news: not only had she secured a publisher – Penguin Ireland – for her first book, *The Baby Trail*, but it had been sold to no less than eight other international publishers.

It all started early in the summer when Sinéad sent an email to the offices of Penguin Ireland describing her work-in-progress and asking if anyone would be interested in reading it. Senior editor, Patricia Deevy, was intrigued and asked Sinéad to send as much as she could of the - as yet unfinished - novel. Patricia was stunned at the quality of what she read. She flew to London to meet Sinéad and shortly afterwards did a deal to acquire the Irish, UK and commonwealth rights to *The Baby Trail*. Over the next few weeks it was sold in heated auctions across Europe and the United States.

*The Baby Trail* is the laugh-out-loud funny and tremendously moving story of a young woman's determined pursuit of the one thing that is missing from her life - a baby.

Patricia bought the novel from London literary agent Gillon Aitken, who includes Helen Fielding and Sebastian Faulks amongst his clients. He has also sold *The Baby Trail* to publishers in Italy, France, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Greece and Spain. In the United States the prestigious house, Simon & Schuster, has bought the book.

Sinéad Moriarty says: "I am absolutely thrilled that Penguin is publishing this novel. Working with Penguin has been a real pleasure. I believe this story is one that all women will be able to relate to."

Patricia Deevy says: "I am really delighted that we have found such a fabulous book and such a fantastic author. I know Sinéad will have a wonderful career with Penguin."

Penguin Ireland will publish *The Baby Trail* in October 2004