

The Jean-Macé edito

A SHORT STORY ABOUT JAN

IN THIS ARTICLE, YOU'LL LEARN ABOUT JAN CARSON, AN IRISH AUTHOR THAT WE MET IN JEAN MACÉ HIGH SCHOOL ON THE 3RD OF MARCH 2026

On this Tuesday, March 3rd, we met Jan Carson, the famous Irish writer who notably wrote "The Raptures" or "Quickly While They Still Have Horses". During this meeting we interviewed her and the pupils asked her some questions. But before that, she introduced herself to the audience. Jan Carson, by her real name Julie Ann Carson was born in 1980 in Ireland in a Protestant family. Her parents were Presbyterian and they were really strict. She couldn't go to dance, to the cinema... She couldn't mix with Non-protestant people too. She couldn't really do anything. But as she said her parents made "a big mistake", letting her go to a library. There, she discovered books and literature, she discovered her true passion : Writing. She discovered a way to speak in a community in which women didn't have a voice.



Interview

I saw that one of your books was translated in Iran's language, did you do that for the women in Iran, knowing the situation for women's rights ?

"Yeah ! You are completely right, I did it because of that. As I told you earlier, I grew up in a community in which women didn't really have a voice so it has always be important to me to advocate for women's rights. This is the reason I have translated my book in Iran's language. It was really tough to send it to the country because of the censorship but we did it ! We smuggled the book through the border and now women have a way to read my book and maybe even to stand up for the cause, though it may be complicated in their situation. I'm really glad and proud of myself for doing that and I really hope that we can do that with all my books and in more languages. I also really hope that my books will have an impact for women's rights' cause and I hope that they'll inspire women !"

How did you start your writing career ?

"It wasn't until 25 that I started my writing career. When living in the US, time was long, I couldn't really find anything to occupy myself. One day, I remembered how I liked reading when I was younger. I said to myself "why not start to write and see how it goes". It was the best decision of my life. After discovering that I could write book, I felt relieved. Since then, I've never stopped writing."

Why did you choose to write about the Troubles in such an uncanny way ?

"There are three reasons to this. The first one being that, when I grew up, we had no other books than the Bible at home and, as you know, there a lots of magical events in it. This became an inspiration for me, that's why I'm writing like this. The second one is that, when talking about the Troubles, most of the books are written in a serious tone, almost boring. So, to get myself out of the norms a little bit, I wrote about the troubles using dark humor and weird events. By doing that, my books were really mine and not just some classic documentary about the troubles you could watch on TV. The last reason is a historical one, magical realism has often been used in colonized countries and, as you know, Northern Ireland has an history of colonization so it was also a reference to that."

