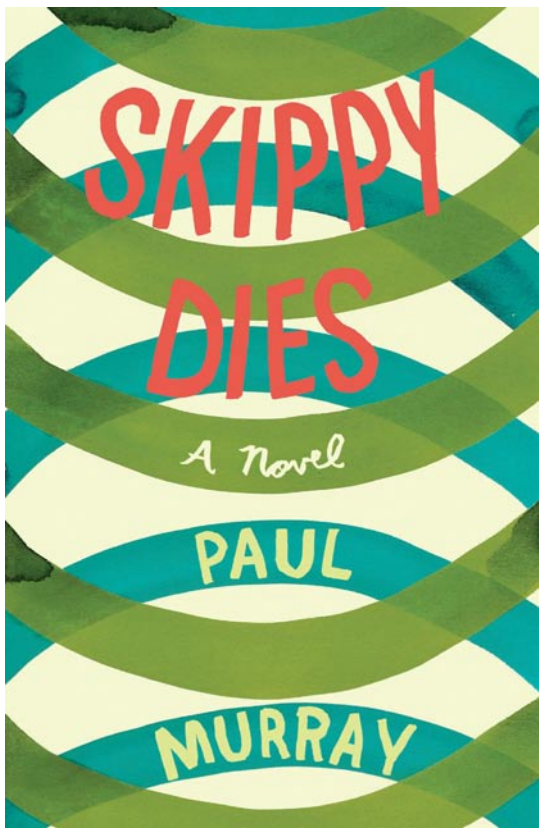




Reader's Guide



Other books by Paul Murray

An Evening of Long Goodbyes (2003)

Skippy Dies Paul Murray

Hamish Hamilton
Price £13.99

www.themanbookerprize.com

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About the author

Paul Murray is the author of *An Evening of Long Goodbyes*, which was shortlisted for the Whitbread First Novel Award in 2003 and is published by Penguin. *Skippy Dies* is his second novel. He lives in Dublin.

Skippy Dies

Ruprecht Van Doren is an overweight genius whose hobbies include very difficult maths and the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence. Daniel 'Skippy' Juster is his roommate. In the grand old Dublin institution that is Seabrook College for Boys, nobody pays either of them much attention. But when Skippy falls for Lori, the Frisbee-playing Siren from the girls' school next door, suddenly all kinds of people take an interest - including Carl, part-time drug-dealer and official school psychopath ...

A tragic comedy of epic sweep and dimension, *Skippy Dies* wrings every last drop of humour and hopelessness out of life, love, mermaids, M-theory, the poetry of Robert Graves, and all the mysteries of the human heart.

Discussion points

Would you agree that *Skippy Dies* is 'both genuinely tragic and genuinely comedic'?

By the end of the book each of the characters achieve a kind of peace. Did you find the ending conclusive?

Despite the bullying, swearing and bolshiness, would you agree that Paul Murray manages to make the boys of Seabrook likeable?

The book touches on difficult subjects such as drug abuse, self-harm and sexual abuse but the tone remains light throughout. Do you think the novel struggles to decide how funny or serious it wants to be?

Do you agree with the reviewer who said "Skippy Dies is so appealing and surprising that the pages pass with ease"?
Patrick Ness, *The Guardian*

Themed reading

Eleanor Catton *The Rehearsal*
Joe Dunthorne *Submarine*
Zoe Heller *Notes on a Scandal*

Useful links

www.themanbookerprize.com
www.penguin.co.uk
www.guardian.co.uk/books/2010/feb/06/skippy-dies-paul-murray