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# Good Children

by: Tracy Thorne

dramaturgical packet 2018

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prepared by: emma mathieu  
emma.mathieu@uconn.edu

<https://www.pinterest.com/emmajoyhill/good-children/>

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## JEAN MCCONVILLE



**AGE 37.  
MOTHER OF 10.  
CATHOLIC WEST BELFAST, IRELAND.  
DISAPPEARED IN DECEMBER 1972.**

4 men and 4 women wearing nylons over their faces. Neighbors, not strangers. One gun. Knocked on McConville's door. Told her to put her coat on. Took her out of her house. Her kids watching while she said "help me" as they dragged her away. The neighbors told the children that they just needed to talk to their mom. Archie was 16. He asked if he could go with them. They told him to "fuck off" as they pointed a gun at his face. He watched as they threw their mom into a Volkswagen. He watched as she disappeared.

The children went looking for Jean. No one would tell them where she went. Neighbors, not strangers were aware of the kidnapping, but were unsympathetic. The culture of silence infecting the area leaving the children alone still waiting for answers. McConville's disappearance was reported to the police, but no one investigated.

There were rumors that Jean McConville abandoned her kids.  
There were rumors that she eloped with a British officer.  
That she was an informer.  
A Brit Lover.  
A traitor.

A 2006 REPORT STATED  
THAT JEAN MCCONVILLE  
WAS NOT AN AGENT.

SHE WAS AN INNOCENT  
WOMAN MURDERED.

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# TIMELINE OF IRISH CONFLICT

## 1798 - Wolfe Tone Rebellion

Uprising against the British to create an Irish Republic. Sparks the idea that physical force can be used to get independence. Sparks the idea that the British aren't invincible.

## 1800 — Act of Union

Legally states that Ireland is governed by Britain. 2 forms of nationalist opposition to the Union.

*A militant based one* that believed in using force for an independent Ireland. *A constitutional based one* that believed in using political influence for an independent Ireland.



**Home Rule:**  
Idea that Ireland can have  
their own government, but  
still be a part of the UK.



## 1858 — Irish Republican Brotherhood Established

Advocated for complete Irish independence. Largely ineffective until 1910, when there was a rebirth. A new generation who were dedicated to a revolution and believed that Home Rule wasn't good enough.

## 1874 - Irish Parliamentary Party Founded

Official party for Irish Members of Parliament. People were elected into the UK's House of Commons.

## 1905 — Sinn Fein Established

Translates in English to: We Ourselves. Political Wing of the IRA. Saw the Irish Parliamentary Party as insufficient and lazy because nothing was getting done. Argued that IPP should set up their own assembly. Believed in asserting national sovereignty and self-determination.

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### 1913 — Irish Volunteers Founded

Paramilitary organization that helped support the goal of self-government. Later joined by Irish Citizen Army, Irish Women's Council, and Irish Republican Boy Scouts to form the IRA.

### 1919 — Irish Republican Army Created

Sought to establish a republic.  
End British rule in Northern Ireland.  
Used armed forces to achieve these goals.

### 1919-1921 — Anglo-Irish War

Between IRA and British. IRA uses guerrilla tactics to get British to negotiate. Ended by the Anglo-Irish Treaty

### 1921 — Anglo-Irish Treaty Signed

Didn't grant full independence to Ireland. Made 26 out of 32 counties free from British rule. The remaining 6 counties that made up Northern Ireland were still under their control. *Sinn Fein splits into two factions:*

- 1 supporting the treaty  
Free State Army /Regulars)
- 1 against the treaty  
IRA/Irregulars

### 1922-1923 — Irish Civil War

Anti-treaty and pro-treaty sides of Sinn Fein fight against each other. Ended with the anti-treaty/Irregulars losing – but they never surrendered their weapons or split up.

### 1968 - 1998 — The Troubles

30 years of conflict in Northern Ireland. Between the *Unionist/Protestants* who wanted to remain a part of the UK and the *Nationalist/Catholics* who wanted full Irish Independence. Though Catholics faced discrimination, this was largely a territorial conflict, not a religious one. Over 3,600 people were killed. Thousands more injured.



## EVERYDAY LIFE IN THE TROUBLES

A culture of silence  
where inquiring is  
dangerous  
and deadly  
where war is  
in the streets  
in front of kids  
in the back of minds  
that are set in understanding  
a divide  
a rebellion  
between  
an us and them  
where there's an absence  
of law and order  
with no protection  
from a police that's distrusted  
from a justice that's executed  
by vigilantes who  
beat  
kneecap  
tar and feather  
as a means of punishment  
where a constant sound  
of army helicopters  
and of bombs  
where a lack of privacy  
a lack of trust  
a lack of peace  
bleeds out.



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## IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY (IRA)

During The Troubles, Protestant Unionists held power due to their loyalty to the British. Meanwhile, Catholic minorities were facing severe discrimination. Many Catholics were unable to find decent housing or jobs and were not protected by the law. In 1969, Catholic streets in Belfast were set on fire. Parts of the IRA gave support to defend Catholic communities and helped defend them. There was controversy and conflict over the use of violence which led to a split in the IRA creating the Official IRA and the Provisional IRA. The goal of both units to create a united Irish republic remained the same. The IRA refer to themselves as Volunteers – prepared to sacrifice their lives for the cause. Although terrorist groups typically don't have uniforms, the IRA is known for their standard black beret.

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### **The Official IRA**

Believed in paramilitary tactics,  
but no violence beyond that.

Took a defensive position.

Wanted to use policy means,  
but occasionally engaged  
in violence.



*1972 Official IRA mobile patrol*

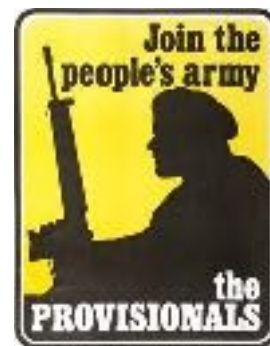
### **The Provisional IRA (PIRA)**

Believed that violence and terrorism  
was necessary.

Targeted military and civilian  
populations with a series of bombing  
campaigns.

Had little support until 1972.

\* This is what we usually think of when  
we think of the IRA today,



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## AGE & THE IRA

### AGE OF IRA MEMBERS AT TIME OF RECRUITMENT

| Recruitment phase | Mean  |
|-------------------|-------|
| 1966-1976         | 22.35 |
| 1977-1980         | 23.22 |
| 1981-1989         | 26.48 |
| 1990-1994         | 28.13 |
| 1995-1998         | 32.67 |
| Total             | 24.99 |

average age of members at the time of entry is 25

with female members typically a year and a half older

### AMOUNT OF IRA MEMBERS IN AN AGE GROUP

| Age group | 1966-1976 (n) | 1977-1980 (n) | 1981-1989 (n) | 1990-1994 (n) | 1995-1998 (n) | Total (n)     |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 18        | 17.4% (83)    | 5.7% (5)      | 1.7% (9)      | .7% (1)       | 0 (0)         | 9.8% (98)     |
| 18-20     | 34.5% (165)   | 21.4% (21)    | 14.4% (35)    | 15.0% (21)    | 6.9% (4)      | 24.1% (246)   |
| 21-23     | 17.4% (83)    | 22.4% (22)    | 28.8% (5)     | 18.6% (26)    | 17.2% (10)    | 18.8% (192)   |
| 24-26     | 12.3% (59)    | 23.7% (23)    | 21.0% (54)    | 22.1% (31)    | 10.3% (6)     | 16.5% (173)   |
| 27-29     | 6.5% (31)     | 6.7% (6)      | 13.1% (37)    | 10.7% (13)    | 13.8% (8)     | 9.7% (97)     |
| 30+       | 11.9% (57)    | 21.4% (21)    | 24.1% (59)    | 32.9% (46)    | 51.7% (30)    | 21.1% (213)   |
| Total     | 100.0% (478)  | 100.0% (98)   | 100.0% (245)  | 100.0% (140)  | 100.0% (58)   | 100.0% (1019) |

the older the member, the less likely they were to engage in violence

correlation between youth and involvement in high risk activities

men could begin weapon training at 15

and were most likely coming from a family and/or background that promoted the recruitment process

# GENDER & THE IRA

## GENDER OF IRA MEMBERS IN RECRUITMENT PHASES

| Gender | Recruitment phase |               |               |               |               | Total (n)     |
|--------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|        | 1959-1976 (n)     | 1977-1980 (n) | 1981-1989 (n) | 1990-1994 (n) | 1995-1998 (n) |               |
| Male   | 94.9% (882)       | 87.1% (100)   | 93.7% (250)   | 75.9% (139)   | 98.3% (50)    | 95.1% (1031)  |
| Female | 5.1% (48)         | 12.9% (15)    | 6.3% (17)     | 24.1% (45)    | 1.7% (8)      | 4.9% (53)     |
| Total  | 100.0% (930)      | 100.0% (115)  | 100.0% (267)  | 100.0% (184)  | 100.0% (58)   | 100.0% (1085) |

members were most likely to be male

the gender tended to have a higher impulsivity, confidence, attraction to risk, need for status, and need for revenge

the female branch of the IRA – Cumann na mBan – wasn't as involved in the warfare

they nursed, carried messages, acted as foreign operatives, and smuggled weapons

although, some women did partake in the fighting



Female IRA fighters on parade



IRA women interrogate man 1970

# MAJOR IRA ATTACKS

**Bloody Sunday** — January 1972, Londonderry.

British shot 28 civilians in a peaceful protest. 14 died.  
PIRA recruitment soars. Official IRA goes to the back burner.

**Bloody Friday** — July 1972, Belfast.

2 hours. 22 bombs. 9 killed. 130 injured.  
Mostly car bombs. Most targeting infrastructure.  
Setback for IRA after receiving backlash.



*\*In 1972, PIRA carried out 1300 bombings.*

*\*The IRA would often send telephone warnings before bombings and would often try to spare civilian lives. Their main goal usually being to take down infrastructures.*

*Bloody Friday car bombs*

**Brighton Hotel Bombing** — October 1984, Brighton.

Intended to kill Margaret Thatcher and her cabinet.  
4 dead. 34 injured. Thatcher survived.

**Bishopsgate Bombing** — April 1993, London.

1 dead. 44 injured. 1 billion in damage.

*\*THE IRA HAS MURDERED MORE THAN 600 CIVILIANS*

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## POST-TROUBLES IRA



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**As of 2017** Northern Ireland doesn't have a functioning government. A power-sharing argument between the Democratic Party and Sinn Fein lead to the dissolving of government entirely. Currently, there aren't any ministers to make decisions or change issues in the country. There is also talk of the UK taking back power.

As far as guerrilla activity goes, 2 IRA splinter groups, the **Real IRA** and the **Continuity IRA** still practice terrorism today.



*CIRA propaganda video*



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## GERRY ADAMS

Seen as a peacemaker.  
Seen as a hate figure.  
Lead republicans towards democracy and away from violence.  
Lead the IRA and justified its many murders.

Adams is the infamous face of the IRA, even though he denied being a member, even though he claims he'll never disassociate himself from them.

Adams grew up in a family that was active in armed republicanism.



Technically speaking, he never played an operational role in the violence.  
He confined himself to the leadership of Sinn Fein from November 1983 to February 2018.

IRA members were upset because he accepted position in a government that still remained part of UK  
he denied his own group  
he left the remaining members to carry the burden of the many deaths.  
he lead the war against the British, but then jumped on peaceful compromise.

**Regarding Jean McConville,  
He told her family that the IRA killed her.  
He didn't know who authorized.**

## DOLOROUS PRICE

Former IRA terrorist.  
Part of a secret unit called the Unknowns  
Which conducted secret work  
like disappearing.

Price grew up in a family that was active in armed republicanism.  
In 1971, she was the first woman admitted full membership of IRA.  
Her and her sister were known for carrying out IRA bombings.

The Price Sisters' sexualized dangerous glamor rendered them the name "Crazy Prices".



*Marian and Dolorous Price 1972*

**Regarding Jean McConville,  
She said that she was ordered to kill her.  
She said that the order came from Adams.**

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# FORCED DISAPPEARANCE

Since 1980. 55,000 disappeared. 107 countries.



an organization's refusal  
to acknowledge that it is holding a person it has detained  
or to disclose the fate of that person

a crime against humanity

an implication of murder  
of torture  
with electrocution  
with overcrowding  
with forcing to stand  
with forcing into cells  
with forcing lack of sleep  
with extraction of nails  
with mock executions  
with food deprivation  
with dehumanization  
with blindfolds  
with handcuffs  
with beatings  
with burnings  
with rape  
with death

with a vanished body  
with no evidence



Forced disappearances have been used as a tool to silence voices | to intimidate people | to demobilize opposition | to create a fear | to create an uncertainty | to create a false hope that the victim is still alive | in order to maintain leverage | to ensure complacency | to stop resistance |

but they can backfire | they can draw attention to state violence | they can increase resistance |

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## CULTURE OF FEAR

In 1999, sociologist Barry Glasner explains how often times it is our perception of danger that increases, not the actual level of risk. A Culture of Fear is described as the concept that people can incite fear into the public through emotional bias in order to achieve political goals. This fear is often established with a formula

**economic exploitation + physical repression + political control + strict censorship**

that manifests itself within individuals with a silence though censorship, a sense of isolation, and a belief that there is no chance in fighting against the body in power. A Culture of Fear ultimately causes a feeling of hopelessness in the public and causes them to withdraw from opposition.



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## COUNTRIES WITH FORCED DISAPPEARANCES

### Guatemala

One of the first countries that used disappearances as a tool of terror. During a 36 year war, 40,000 to 50,000 people were disappeared. First documented in 1966. Mostly labor members and law students who sought legal measures against Guatemalan military government. Police dragged people out of their houses and would disappear other members of families if a victim escaped. Indigenous Mayans, who believed in ritual burial, made up 83% of those killed.

### Argentina's Los Desaparecidos

From 1976 to 1983, Argentina endured a military dictatorship known as the Dirty War. The military wanted to to reform the society to fit a conservative and Catholic vision and waged war on any left-wing sympathizers or anyone who opposed Western values. 10,00-30,00 people were disappeared after the government was seized, most of which were young Argentinian students and/or activists. Los Desaparecidos included men, women, and children. Victims were kidnapped and taken to secret detention centers where most were tortured or killed. 3% of the women who were kidnapped became pregnant from the rape of guards. After they gave birth, the mothers were "transferred" (which commonly meant they were killed and thrown off planes) and the children were sent to live with military couples. 500 newborns and children were taken from their parents. They were seen as "seeds of the tree of evil" and by giving them away to new "authentic" Argentinian families they would be replanted.



*Body of woman imprisoned at ESMA*



*Photographs of Los Desaparecidos*



*Body of ESMA prisoner*

Even though the Dirty War has ended, it still remains. Kidnapped children continued to be prisoners, the erasure of their identity causing many mental health problems in adulthood. Those that endured the conflict were unable to move on and pushed to have justice. Threats against activists, survivors, and families of the disappeared still happen today.

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*Cell in ESMA, the largest detention center and torture chamber in Argentina*



*Madres of the Plaza de Mayo — Mothers went searching for their children who had been detained by the military. They would gather weekly to march in protest. Though men were often the targets, women lead the struggle to seek answers.*

## Spain

Between 1936 and 1975. Roughly 144,226 were disappeared and buried in undisclosed locations in mass graves. Roughly 30,960 children were stolen and are still being taken today.

## El Salvador

Starting in 1978. Those who were suspected of opposing the government, even civilians. Aimed to eliminate parts of the population that potentially could become guerrillas. Utilized disappearances of children as a strategy of violence.

## Nazi Germany

The Gestapo sought to eliminate those who were suspected of disagreeing with Nazi beliefs, including political opponents. Those who were arrested and disappeared without warning given the name Nacht und Nebel (Night and Fog).

## Syria

Began in the 1970s when President al-Assad was being opposed by citizens. Many Syrians became victims to government forces and violent rebel groups. Citizens could be detained for sticking up for others, socializing in a place with enemies, or being associated with someone who was considered a threat. Since the country's uprising in 2011, mainly protesters (including human rights activists, lawyers, and journalists) were targeted by Syrian authorities. There has also been an accumulation of western hostages disappeared by Islamic militants bringing a great outrage against the country.

## United States

Guantanamo is infamous for its disappearance and torture of those suspected to be involved in the war on terror. The Bush administration violated legal and moral norms by justifying the torture of terrorist detainees (some of whom there was no evidence against). The United States' allowance of disappearance not only contradicts democracy, but sends the messages to other governments that violation of human rights is acceptable if there's a purpose.

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## TRAUMA THEORY

In order to heal we have to tell stories. Not just so that we find empathy for others. Not just so that we are connected in someway. But because we need to put words to our experiences in order to move on from them.

It's not easy to find the words. Especially for kids who haven't yet developed verbalization skills. Especially when overwhelming fear makes us lose our capacity for speech. Traumatized people become completely cut off from language. Instead of making sense of the memory, they begin to experience it over and over again. Some even try to tell their story in different ways to try piece together an understanding.

Words allow us to put events into a time sequence. When trauma is not processed, the events are constantly experienced as part of the "now". Without words to make sense of events, the mind starts to think in images, sensations, feelings, and flashbacks. The mind begins to concoct a constant reenactment of the trauma. The pain is constant. Repetitive. Inescapable. The mind engraves the trauma. The mind tries to hide what it can't make sense of.

It's dangerous to not remember. If we can't remember it, we can't learn from it. And we are destined to reenact what we cannot remember. Flashbacks are a constant reenactment of the trauma. The pain of the event is constant and repetitive. It can't be escaped. The trauma becomes engraved.



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# TERRORISM EFFECTS ON CHILDHOOD



Terrorism is rooted in the idea that the end justifies the means. Violent and political in motive, it is willing to make sacrifices in order to incite change even if it risks the innocent.

Children are the epitome of innocence.

Children focus on the concrete effects of war. The impact it has on their daily life. They are concerned about their house, school, parents, pets.

Girls are more expressive of their fears than boys. But boys have a higher unconscious fear and anxiety.

Those with psychologically available mothers are more likely to manage trauma. Change in children's behaviors is most likely a reflection of the distress their caregivers are experiencing. When parents are emotionally responsive and/or develop daily routines, children are more likely to establish a sense of normalcy. Second-

generation trauma is a domino-effect where generations pass on the emotional turmoil they face to the younger members of their family or group.

As technology advances, more people endure the effects of terrorism. Mass media allows the conveyance of traumatic experience to people who haven't faced it directly.



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## BANNED DANCE

Dance is banned because it's sinful.  
It increases temptation to commit adultery.  
It involves alcohol and drugs.  
It's promiscuous. It's sexy. Carefree.

Dance is banned because it's communicating.  
It speaks to ideas about culture. It's individuality. It's dangerous.  
People get close. People share thoughts.  
People rebel.

Dance is banned because it's a freedom.  
A lack of control.  
Total individuality.  
And a desire to spark change.

### Cabaret Law

The No Dancing Law was in effect in NY until 2017. First created in 1926 during the Harlem Renaissance, the law prohibited dancing in public places that served food or drink unless they had a cabaret license. The law targeted jazz clubs because of the social mixing of races which meant people were "runnin wild".

### Footloose's Elmore City, OK

In 1898, the religious town forbade dance because of its illicit nature. The high school proposed to end the ban so they could have prom. The Reverend stated, "No good has ever come from a dance. If you have a dance somebody will crash it and they'll be looking for only two things - women and booze. When boys and girls hold each other, they get sexually aroused. You can believe what you want, but one thing leads to another".

### Lavender Scare

In the 1950s, the country was against the public display of homosexuality. Gay people were targeted by the police for "illegal" activities, including kissing in public and same sex dancing. Clubs would flip a light to warn dancers to switch to an opposite-sex dance partner during raids.



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## Moshing

In the 1980s, moshing or slam dancing became a controversy. The violent nature of the dance led to injuries that resulted in its eventual ban in various schools throughout the country. Rock music alone helped to spark a youth revolution with its politically active themes. In communist countries, the music was often banned and could only be accessed in the black market.

## Chile and The Cueca

The Cueca was a traditional dance in Chilean working class culture. The dance involves a romantic conquest and reflects a sort of mating ritual. Young people were attracted to the dance because of its nature of rebellion, connection, communication, and individuality. Pinochet, the dictator of Chile 1973-1990, made many strict societal rules. Instead of banning the Cueca, he made the dance a part of military parades. The Cueca went from a freeing experience to a symbol of dictatorship and youths began to reject it.



*Chileans dancing the Cueca 1950s, before Pinochet*

## Communist Germany

Western rock music began to capture a sense of freedom and inspired people to want to incite change. This scared many oppressive countries. In 1961, Germany built a wall across Berlin to cut themselves off from the Western world out of fear that love for Western music would lead to love for Western politics. The Stasi tried to create their own sense of youth culture to distract them. They created the Lipsi, a state sanctioned dance that did its best to deviate people from rock and roll dancing. Additionally, they restricted how much Western music was played at parties. The paranoia for the Western effect eventually led the Stasi to find and arrest suspected listeners.

*"They wanted to bring a kind of socialist lifestyle to the people so we tried to combat anything that didn't belong to that. The aim was to control "the scene" as it expanded, to stop it from becoming too well known"*  
*- former Stasi*