

Síocháin Shíle

**Tarlac ó Conghalaigh
H Block 6, Long Kesh**

It was the first Winter morning.
Cold clear air.
She announced Autumn,
and deferred
politely.
Summer has been long
in dusty stuffiness
and machinations.

A Claddagh Heart crested watch
for a birthday present.
Prescriptions
for cop on tablets
followed shortly.
You're in no position
to play reality:
wombs and homes,
social mores and things.
she soothed.

Dreams gurgled
in the grip of brinkmen
born to lead.