

So I grew up on a farm  
in South County Roscommon, so we were surrounded by  
bog. But at that time  
bogs were more associated with poverty and ignorance.  
And it was something  
we wanted to get away from.  
And at the same time, I associated it with my  
Grandmother and  
the smell of  
a turf fire and the baking eh with a turf fire. So it represents nurture and comfort emm as  
well as that place  
that people wanted to get away from.  
And then in my  
forties when I started to write,  
I began to realise  
and learnt more about nature, I began to realise, oh, this is something precious.  
And eh it really changed  
How I related  
To bogs.  
And it was like rediscovering them.  
And in some ways, I think it's a bit like how  
we relate to, say, our parents, how we relate to heritage, how as a teenager you want to get away from  
them. And then when you're older in life, you realise, oh, there's something very precious here.  
And the  
memories they have, the stories they have, the associations they have and  
It's a bit like that with the bog.  
And I think that's what's happening in Ireland now. We're realising how precious the bogs are.