



THE TRIAL OF ROGER CASEMENT

PRESS
RELEASE

by Fionnuala Doran

**“Self-government is our right, a thing born in us at birth,
a thing no more to be doled out to us or withheld from us
by another people than the right to life itself...”**

Human rights campaigner, Irish patriot, British traitor. Roger Casement was knighted in 1911 for his groundbreaking humanitarian work in the Congo Free State and the Peruvian Amazon, but five years later, his commitment to Irish independence saw him imprisoned, condemned both as a revolutionary and a homosexual, and subsequently hanged for treason.

Having exposed the barbarism of King Leopold II's administration in the Congo, Casement became a national hero. The novelist Joseph Conrad would combine the Irishman's recollections with his own experiences to explore the 'civilising' nature of Western rule in *Heart of Darkness*. Casement went on to investigate similar abuses in the Peruvian Amazon before committing himself to the Irish nationalist cause.

When war broke out in 1914, Casement travels to Berlin, hoping to secure a German declaration of support for an independent Ireland. When he returned to County Kerry, just days ahead of the planned uprising, he was arrested and transported to London. Compromised by the seizure of his personal diaries, the verdict was something of a foregone conclusion, despite pleas of clemency from W.B. Yeats, George Bernard Shaw and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, among others.

Centring on the final few months of Casement's life, *The Trial of Roger Casement* charts his time in Germany, his three-day interrogation at Scotland Yard, his incarceration in the Tower of London and his trial at the Old Bailey, where he delivered one of the most celebrated courtroom speeches of all time.

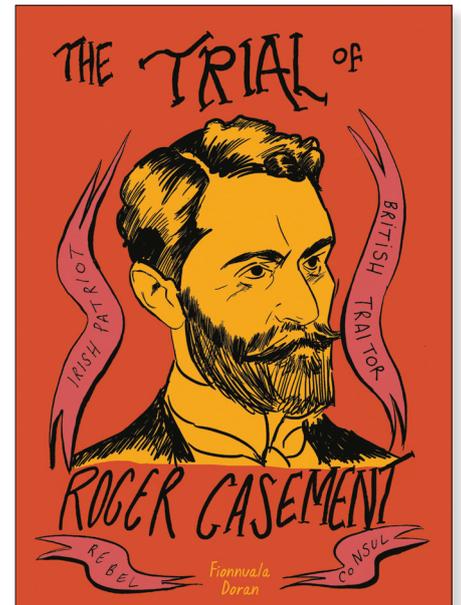
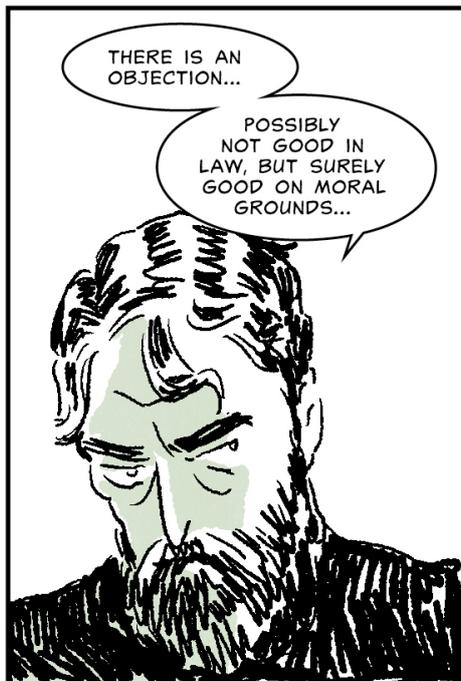
Written and drawn by the Irish artist Fionnuala Doran, *The Trial of Roger Casement* is a poignant reminder of an extraordinary life, published to coincide with the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising and Casement's death.

About the creator

Fionnuala Doran is a comics artist. A graduate of the Royal College of Art in London, she won the British Library's Comics Unmasked competition in 2014. She is senior lecturer of Teesside University's newly launched BA in Comics, Graphic Novels and Sequential Art. She lives in Glasgow.

Notes to editors

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