

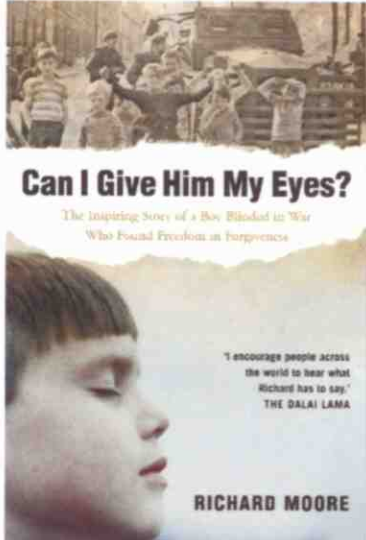
PRESS RELEASE



Can I Give Him My Eyes? By Richard Moore

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**The Inspiring autobiography of
a boy blinded in war
who found freedom in
forgiveness.**

'I was about ten feet away when a soldier fired the rubber bullet that struck me on the bridge of my nose. I didn't hear the bang of the discharge. All I remember is that everything went blank. And that was the moment my life changed forever.'

Richard Moore was ten years old when, passing an army base with friends, he was shot and blinded by a British soldier. For the family, it was the second tragedy in succession. Just months beforehand, Gerard McKinney, Richard's mother's brother, had been shot dead by British paratroopers on Bloody Sunday.

'I was confused. It had been daytime on 4 May 1972 as I ran home from primary school but now it was suddenly dark. People were speaking, some shouting, with panic in their voices. I kept exclaiming, "I wasn't doing anything! I wasn't doing anything!"'

'Can I give him my eyes?' was the question Richard's father asked doctors when they broke the news that they could not save his sight. Here, Richard Moore lends us his eyes as he shares his remarkable and singular story, from his early years growing up on the working-class Creggan Estate in Derry, the second youngest of a family of twelve children. He describes the moment of grace that accompanied the realisation that he would never see again, and how the rough and tumble of childhood continued unabated, as his friends 'loaned' him their eyes to play hide and seek and ride his bike.



'At first I was crashing into the pavement and sometimes into parked cars. So, my friend Paul Moran, had the idea of running in front of me, calling and directing me with his voice. It was fantastic. Following the direction of the sound, I endlessly cycled down Malin Gardens and around the roundabout. Sometimes I went so fast that my friends had to sprint to keep ahead of me . . .'

It is a vivid portrayal of growing up in a time of war, of the sustaining bonds of family and community, of happiness and humour against the odds, of his later work in the area of peace and reconciliation and of a remarkable meeting, years later, with the soldier who shot him. *Can I Give Him My Eyes?* tells the outstanding life story of a man whom the Dalai Lama describes 'not only as my friend, but also my hero'.

'Forgiveness, let us be clear, is not a sign of weakness. It is a sign of deep inner strength and greatness of heart. I witnessed and experienced this greatness when I visited Richard's home town of Derry, on 18 July 2007. That morning Richard brought me a great gift. He introduced me to the man who had blinded him. For me it was wonderful to see that Richard had not only forgiven the soldier who fired the rubber bullet, but he had also befriended him . . . I encourage people across the world to read what Richard has to say.'
His Holiness the Dalai Lama, from the Foreword.

Richard Moore was born in Derry in 1962. At the age of 10 he was blinded by a rubber bullet. He went on to live an astounding life - father, musician, businessman. In 1996 he founded the charity '*Children in Crossfire*' which helps children all over the world.

In May 2008 in Dallas he was awarded the Harry McKillop "Irish Spirit Award", which is presented annually to a person of Irish or Irish-American descent in recognition of extraordinary acts of humanitarianism benefiting others and their local communities. In London in November 2008 he was awarded the Beacon Special Prize for his work in founding Children In Crossfire. Richard is due to take part in the New York marathon this November to raise funds for Children In Crossfire.

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