



much about her.

The Irish queens of crime rightly take the laurels this month, but here are minor mentions for three other titles that are more than worth your time.

**The Company** (Baskerville, £16.99), JM Varese's stylish Gothic chiller; **A Flaw in the Design** (Serpent's Tail, £16.99), a compulsive, richly imagined literary thriller by Nathan Oates; and **The Broken Afternoon** (riverrun, £16.99), Simon Mason's thoughtful, atmospheric police procedural.



### Declan Hughes

Declan Hughes, a contributor to The Irish Times, is a playwright, novelist and critic

