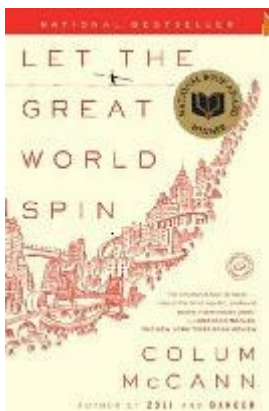


LIBRARY STAFF REVIEWS



Colum McCann

Let the Great World Spin

Winner of the 2009 National Book Award for fiction

Early in the morning in the summer of 1974, traffic in lower Manhattan ground to a halt and the crowds of people on their way to work fell silent as they looked up. A man was walking on a wire strung between the Twin Towers. Philippe Petit's daring (and illegal) act is the catalyst that alters the lives of the characters in *Let the Great World Spin*.

When Petit is arrested and charged for his miraculous stunt, the results of that court case change the lives of the previously unrelated characters in this novel, including, a Jesuit priest, a judge, two prostitutes, and other assorted persons connected by the Twin Towers tightrope act.

This novel poses the question: are our fates determined by spiritual intervention or random chance? It is written with respect for either answer and great compassion for its characters.

Janet Jonjack, staff pick reviewer