Contents

Acknowledgements	хi
Introduction	I
CHAPTER 1 "that my Thefts might pafs undifcovered." Picaresque, Rogue Tales, Broadsheets and Newgate Calendars	19
CHAPTER 2 "The peasantry of Ireland have, for centuries, been at war with the laws by which they are governed." The Early Nineteenth Century	37
CHAPTER 3 "Wherever reserve exists there is mystery, and wherever mystery – guilt." Le Fanu and the Gothic Crime Mystery	53
CHAPTER 4 "Reader, you have seen the singular and extraordinary circumstances connected with the handkerchief, the sledge, and the sack." Sensation and Mystery Fiction	75
CHAPTER 5 "A history of crime seemed to be written on both their faces." L. T. Meade and End of Century Detection	95



viii Contents

CHAPTER 6 "I just go by the rule of thumb, and muddle and puzzle out my cases as best I can." Detection and Mystery at the Turn of the Century	117
CHAPTER 7 "Too sharp to be absolutely wholesome." The Golden Age I: Freeman Wills Crofts	137
CHAPTER 8 "A deceptive air of docility." The Golden Age II: Nicholas Blake and Mrs Victor Rickard	155
CHAPTER 9 "Among the poor the police are never regarded as the upholders of the common law, but as agents of the rich to oppress those without property." Post-Revolutionary Ireland	171
CHAPTER 10 "A kind of private eye and general trouble-shooter." Irish Hard-Boiled and Pulp	193
CHAPTER 11 "Not too quiet for crime." Irish Crime Fiction in the Mid-Twentieth Century I	211
CHAPTER 12 "The law after all is just a machine that suspects everyone on general principles." Irish Crime Fiction in the Mid-Twentieth Century II	227

Contents ix

CHAPTER 13	
"His father had been on the wrong side in the Civil War."	
Irish Spy Fiction in the 1960s and 1970s	243
CHAPTER 14	
"Being Irish, you had a certain innate guile that allowed you	
to think like a criminal and keep one step ahead of them."	
Irish Crime Writing in the 1970s and 1980s	259
CHAPTER 15	
"It was the virus of my country's illness that felled him."	
Northern Ireland	273
CHAPTER 16	
"The authority to dispose of anyone who stands in my way."	
The 1980s and Early 1990s	289
CHAPTER 17	
"A surly-looking cop lounging at the security desk."	
Northern Irish Crime Fiction in the 1990s	305
CHAPTER 18	
"Technically a private investigator." Thrillers and the Diversity of	
Irish Crime Writing in the 1990s	321
CHAPTER 19	
"People loved reading about crime in Ireland." The Police and	
Private Detective Novel in the 1990s	337

x		Con	itents

CHAPTER 20	
"Killers who chop up their victims, that's all very American, or	
at the very least English. In Ireland it would only happen by	
accident, like most things." Towards the New Millennium	359
Bibliography	377
Index	409