

I began to write stories about Eileen Coole in the past few years while living in London. Besides the story in NDR, I have published stories about her in *Solstice*, *Local Knowledge*, and forthcoming in the *Missouri Review*. Eileen is someone with whom I have great identification almost to the point where I could say: *Eileen, c'est moi*. She is not based on any one person I have known, and yet I feel as though I know her personally and identify with her struggles, including addictions, exile, a burning sense of social injustice in the world, and an identification with the downtrodden. I will confess that I have never liked a character so much as I have liked Eileen Coole.