

PRESS CUTTINGS

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SECRET: Even girlfriend Aoibhinn won't get sneak peek I'm too scared to let anyone read my book on JFK – Tubridy

By Lorna Nolan

LATE Late Show host Ryan Tubridy has revealed his fears about showing anyone, including his girlfriend of almost a year, Aoibhinn Ni Shuilleabhain, the early draft of his first book, JFK in Ireland.

Tubridy admits that the prospect of publishing his first historical manuscript – which has been commissioned by Harper Collins as part of a €100,000 two-book deal – terrifies him, given that he has very little background in writing.

The usually self-assured TV presenter says that his biggest fear about letting someone else critique his work before he has finished penning it, is that it would put him off his writing stride.

APPALLING

And despite holding a first-class degree in theoretical physics and ambitions to do a PhD in the future, even brainy beauty Aoibhinn hasn't made the grade when it comes to taking a sneak peek at his findings.

"I've been really reluctant to show it to her (Aoibhinn) or anyone else to be honest," he told the *Herald*.

"I'm just concerned they will say it's appalling. I will happily take all opinions on board when it's bound and out of my hands but I don't think it would be of any benefit to me now.

"I'd have a bit of a confidence issue as to whether I'm on the right track. It's very much unknown country for me.

"I'm not a writer by profession, that's not my natural habitat so it's been a bit of a learning curve," he added.

The UCD graduate went on to

explain how he has gained a renewed admiration for those who write full-time for a living and claims that he would love to take a month out to concentrate on the book.

Tubridy has a personal interest in the topic of JFK's historical visit to Ireland, given that one of his relatives was instrumental in persuading President Kennedy to travel in June 1963, when huge crowds turned out to see him during visits to Dublin, Cork and his ancestral home in Wexford.

According to Tubridy: "I just wish I had a month to disappear from planet media and get my teeth stuck into it. It's truly a labour of love, with the emphasis on the labour.

"It's proving to be very, very tough but it's also a wonderful sort of escape from the reality of the daily shows that I do.

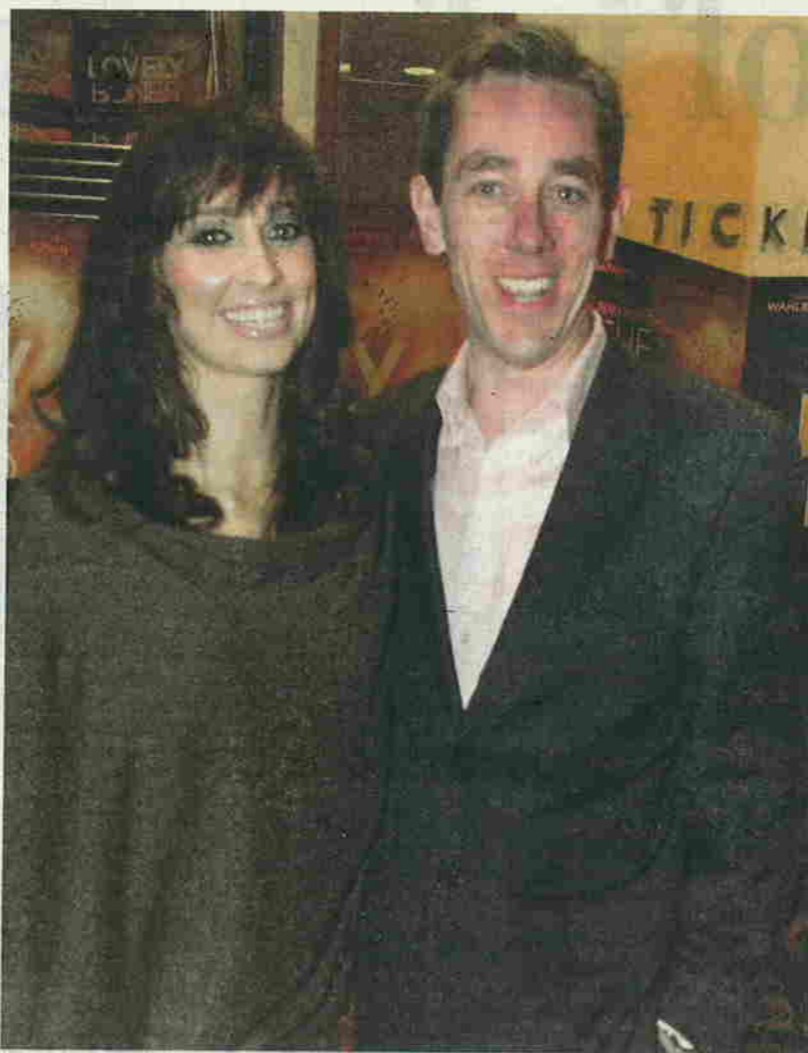
"I literally spend every hour that I'm not committed to the radio or TV working on it.

"It's like the ultimate literary detective game, I've learned some great little nuggets about the Kennedy family," he added.

In a bid to find out more, Tubridy spent some time in the States last March and says he is hoping to pay another visit to Washington next summer.

Book-lover Tubridy stepped out to Hughes & Hughes in Dun Laoghaire this morning to officially launch Storytime Survey in association with Kellogg's Rice Krispies.

The Montrose star was joined by Jack Sullivan (4) and Eabha Last (6) as they read children's books by Irish authors to launch the promotion.



lnolan@herald.ie

THE WRITER STUFF: Aoibhinn NI Shuilleabhain with Ryan Tubridy

RYAN: IT WAS A GREAT GREAT YEAR

Tubridy reveals delight at his dreams coming true



BIG READ: Tubridy and four-year-old Jack Sullivan at the launch of Kellogg's storytime promotion yesterday

TV STAR Ryan Tubridy has spoken of his year of dreams — after he landed the Late Late Show, wrote a book and met his stunning girlfriend.

In an exclusive interview with *The Star* the chatty presenter revealed how he is settling into the career he always dreamed of.

He gushed: "It's like the 46A. One would come and three arrive at the same time.

"You get the Late Late, the book and you meet somebody lovely and your whole world is an assault on the senses."

Shy

"But it's a very good assault on the senses!"

Ryan and girlfriend Aoihinn Ni Shuilleabhain were on a rare public outing together last week at the premiere of *The Lovely Bones*.

But otherwise the couple shy away from the spotlight and prefer to keep their relationship private.

He said: "We're getting on great. As much as possible we're a low-key couple and we are just doing our own thing."

"I was at *The Lovely Bones* pre-

■ **By ANDREA MCCULLAGH**
 miere last week because [actress] Saoirse Ronan asked me to do it. Otherwise we stay to ourselves.

"We are used to people being interested in what we do. She's a low-key kind of girl. She's a school teacher and she's gets on with her work."

But Ryan laughed off any suggestion that they would consider getting married, saying: "We both laugh at the question and we continue to do so."

"It's completely ridiculous."

Mantra

Yesterday Ryan launched the Kellogg's Rice Krispies Storytime promotion and he is keen to get children around the country reading.

Ryan promotes reading on his morning radio show with his book club and is encouraging kids to pick up a book instead of watching TV.

He said: "I have a mantra to kids I deliver to them in schools around the country when I'm going around."

"If you read the books you get the words, if you get the words you get the brains, if you get the brains you get the job, if you get the job you get the money, if you get the money you get the stuff. That's the graph."

71% of mothers read a bedtime story to their children nearly every night

ALISON HEALY

JUST FIVE per cent of mothers never read a bedtime story to their children, according to the findings of a new survey on parents and their reading habits.

The survey found 71 per cent of mothers read a bedtime story to their children nearly every night.

Of those, 28 per cent said they read to their children every night, while 30 per cent said they did so most nights. Some 13 per cent said they read to their children every other night. Most of the parents who did not read to their children said their children were either too young or too old.

All parents surveyed had at least one child under 10 years. One-fifth of mothers who did not read to their children said their hectic schedules were to blame.

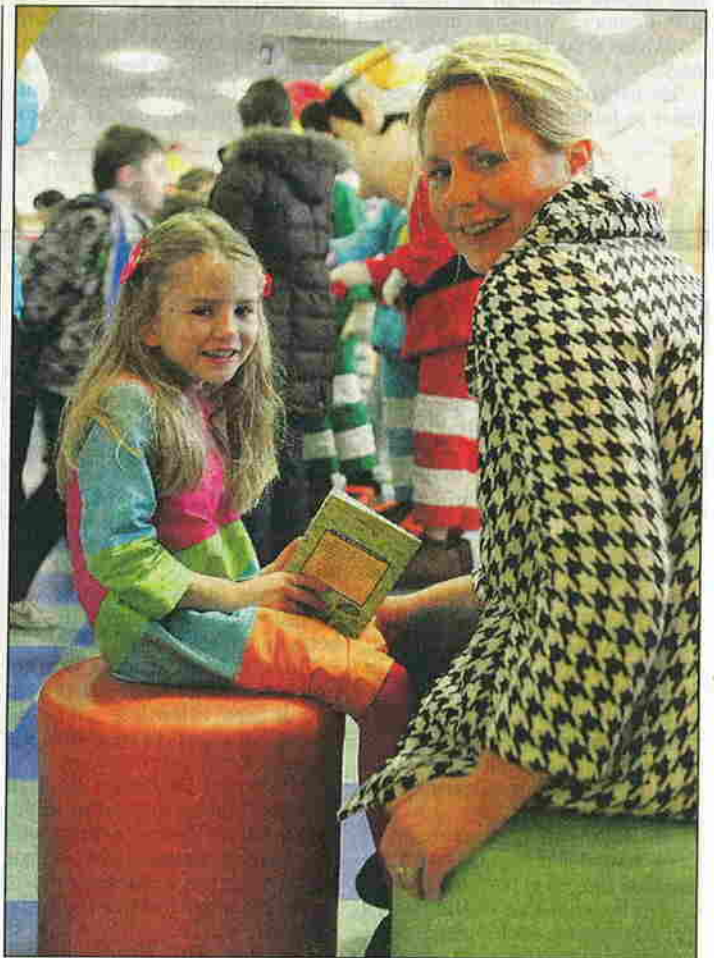
Two-thirds of mothers said they began reading to their child before he or she was a year old, and more than a quarter read to their child from birth. The survey of 500 Irish mothers was

conducted by Empathy Research in January. It was commissioned by Kellogg's Rice Krispies to coincide with a new promotion of Irish children's books involving The O'Brien Press and Hughes & Hughes book stores.

Asked why only mothers were surveyed, Kellogg's communications manager Louise Sullivan said the books promotion was carried on cereal boxes. "70 per cent of parents who do the main grocery shopping are mums," she said. "Of course we know that Irish dads read to their kids too - they just don't do the shopping as often."

The survey also found that *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson topped the list of mothers' favourite children's books. It was followed by *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl and *The Cat in the Hat* by Dr Seuss.

Asked who their favourite children's author was, some 38 per cent chose Roald Dahl, while Enid Blyton got 24 per cent of the



Eabha Last (6) at the storytime readings in Hughes & Hughes, Dún Laoghaire, Co Dublin, yesterday. Photograph: Cyril Byrne

vote. Almost three-quarters of mothers said they read books by Irish authors to their children.

When asked who their favourite Irish authors were overall, Eoin Colfer topped the poll, followed by Maeve Binchy, Marian Keyes, Roddy Doyle and Cecelia Ahern.

The survey also found strong

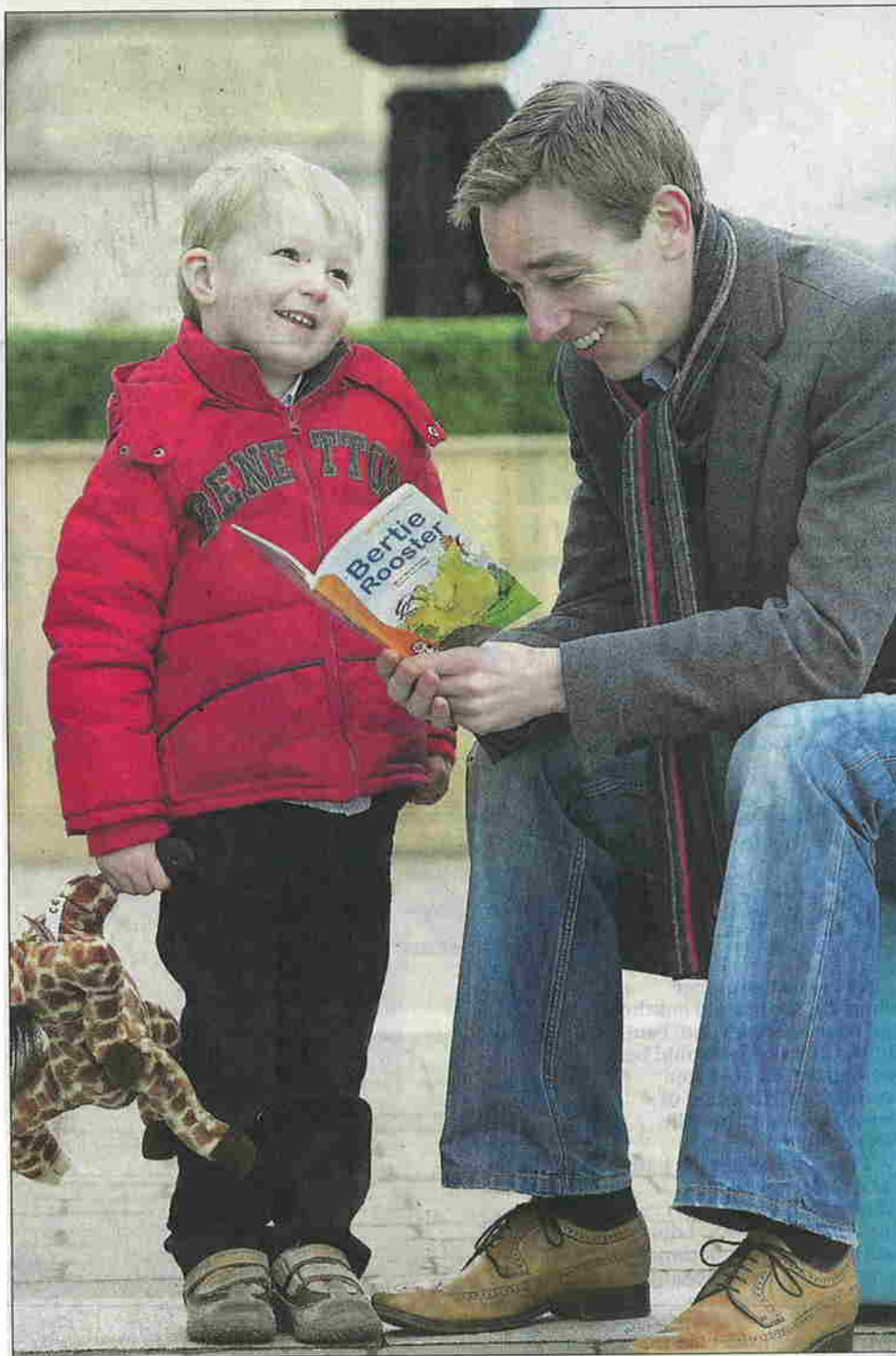
support for libraries with 71 per cent saying their children borrowed books from their local library.

Some 41 per cent of those surveyed said they bought books every month while 58 per cent said they bought them for birthdays, Christmas and special occasions.

PRESS CUTTINGS

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Ryan Tubridy and four-year-old Jack Sullivan read books by Irish authors at the Kellogg's Rice Krispies Storytime promotion launch yesterday. PATRICK BOLGER

Raising children by the book

HE is now the king of television after landing the coveted role as host of 'The Late Late Show'.

But Ryan Tubridy claims he gets more joy reading to his two young daughters than he does from reading the auto-cue.

"It's more my youngest daughter I read to because she wouldn't be in a position to read to herself. 'The Gruffalo', 'The Mister Men' and anything with a Disney princess, they're the books that seem to go down well," he told the *Irish Independent*.

But he said the biggest problem parents faced right now was getting children to spend their time with a good book, rather than computer games.

Healthy

"Looking at computer screens, it can't be healthy. I stress to any children I meet: 'If you get the books, you get the words, if you get the words, you get the brains and if you get the brains, you get the job.'"

Speaking at the launch of the Kellogg's Rice Krispies Storytime promotion, the broadcaster also called for an end to publishers tampering with vintage children's books to make them politically correct.

He also said his respect for writers increased immensely since he began work on a book about US President John F. Kennedy's 1963 visit to Ireland.

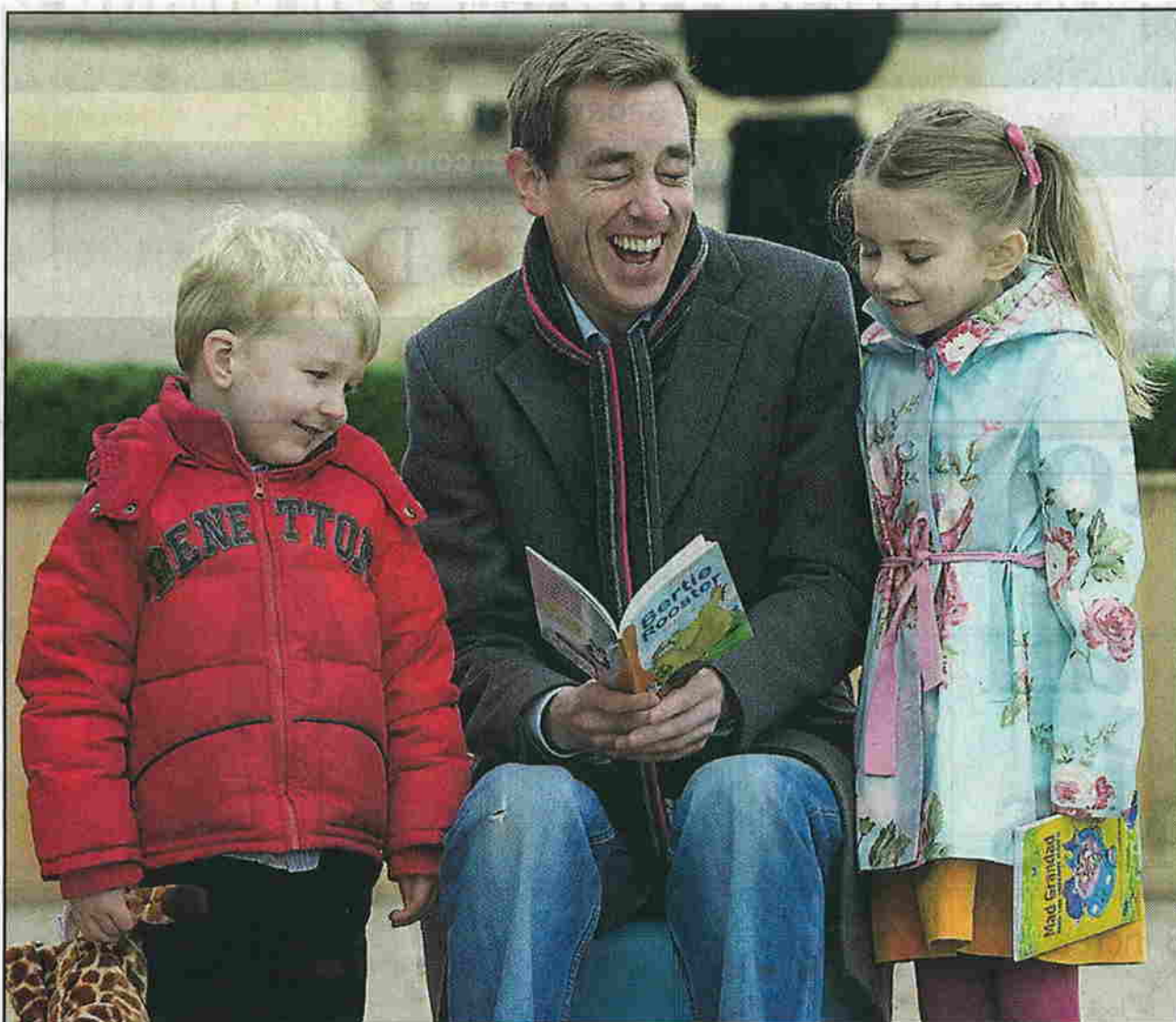
"It's a labour of love with the emphasis on labour. I started the book before I got 'The Late, Late Show' and am now stealing every hour to work on it. Thankfully, it's taking shape but I am full of admiration for people who do this full time," he said.

KEN SWEENEY

PRESS CUTTINGS

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RTÉ presenter Ryan Tubridy, Jack Sullivan, 4, and Eabha Last, 6, read children's books by Irish authors to launch the Kellogg's Storytime promotion.

Books still make cut for gift lists

BOOKS are still being given as presents for children as more than half of mothers here have revealed they buy them for birthdays, Christmas and special occasions.

While computer and internet games, along with television and movies, still vie for the attention of youngsters, it seems that reading has not fallen by the wayside as a favoured pastime.

In an online survey of 500 Irish women with at least one child under 10, it emerged that a third of kids visit the library at least once a month. Two-thirds of mothers begin reading to their child before their first birthday and a quarter start reading to them from birth.

About 40% of the mothers said they read bedtime stories to their kids to improve language skills

or to help stimulate their imagination.

The research was carried out to promote the Kellogg's Rice Krispies Storytime promotion.

"I've always thought that books are a passport to other worlds and they're perfect to help grow children's brains — just add words," said Late Late Show and RTÉ Radio presenter Ryan Tubridy.

PRESS CUTTINGS

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CHILDREN

26% of new mums read to babies

By CLAIRE BRENNAN

MORE than a quarter of mums start reading to their children from the moment they are born, research revealed yesterday.

A study by Kellogg's shows 26% of new mothers treat their youngsters to a bedtime story from birth.

A further 65% begin reading to their children before their first birthday in order to stimulate their imagination.

Speaking at the launch of the Kellogg's Rice Krispies Storytime promotion, RTE's Ryan Tubridy said: "I have always thought that books are a passport to other worlds and they're perfect to help grow children's brains - just add words.

"So this campaign makes perfect sense."

PRESS CUTTINGS

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By the book: Ryan Tubridy, Jack Sullivan, 4, and Éabha Last, 6, read children's books by Irish authors to launch the Kellogg's Storytime promotion. A survey by the breakfast cereal company has found a quarter of Irish mothers read to their children from the time they are born Picture: Patrick Bolger