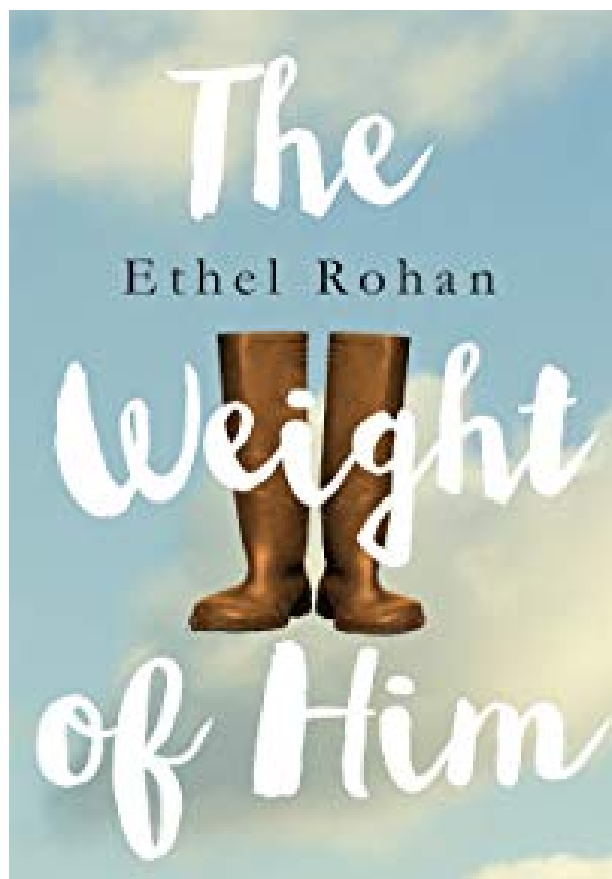


The Weight of Him



Pages:	336
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Author:	Ethel Rohan
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[The Weight of Him.pdf](#)

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In *The Weight of Him* Billy Brennan undergoes an unforgettable journey in a startling attempt to resurrect his family and reignite hearts, his own most of all. At four hundred pounds, Billy can always count on food. From his earliest memories, he has loved food's colors, textures and tastes. The way flavors go off in his mouth. How food keeps his mind still and his bad feelings quiet. Food has always made everything better, until the day Billy's beloved son Michael takes his own life. Billy determines to make a difference in Michael's memory and undertakes a public weight-loss campaign, to raise money for suicide prevention--his first step in an ambitious plan to save himself, and to save others. However, Billy's dramatic crusade appalls his family, who want to simply try to go on, quietly, privately. Despite his crushing detractors, Billy gains welcome allies: his community-at-large; a co-worker who lost his father to suicide; a filmmaker with his own dubious agenda; and a secret, miniature kingdom that Billy populates with the sub-quality dolls and soldiers he saves from disposal at the toy factory where he works. But it is only if Billy can confront the truth of the suffering and brokenness within and around him that he and others will be able to realize the recovery they need. Told against the picturesque yet haunting backdrop of rural, contemporary Ireland, *The Weight of Him* is a big-hearted novel about loss and reliance that moves from tragedy to recrimination to what can be achieved when we take the stand of our lives. An Amazon Best Book! "Ethel Rohan's tender, generous and inspiring debut novel, "The Weight of Him," deserves our full appreciation and absorption." - San Francisco Chronicle "First-time novelist Rohan shows impressive acuity in portraying the many facets of Billy's and his family's grief." Booklist "This life-affirming view of grief is also an invitation, in spirit, to join in Billy's redemptive quest toward carrying on with life. An inspiring tale." Library Journal "In heart-rending passages, Ethel Rohan

captures Big Billy Brennan's grief and the courage it takes to change." BBC Culture's Ten Books You Should Read Most Anticipated Lists: —The Millions, The Irish Times, & The Irish Independent 14 Up & Coming Female Authors to Read This Year Bustle "Offers a window into a world most readers will never know." Nota Bene Pick, World Literature Today "A thing of beauty." Irish American News "Fantastic, painstakingly beautiful debut novel." RT Book Reviews