

[Obsessive Butcher: Francis Brady's Gift and Exchange in Patrick McCabe's *The Butcher Boy*]

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[Abstract] *Patrick McCabe's novel The Butcher Boy (1992) has been critically examined from a very large number of perspectives for over a quarter of a century. Instead of a comprehensive look at the entire Irish novel or an analysis of the compelling language, psychology, or its historical context, this article will narrowly focus on Derrida's look at the ethics of gifts and exchanges and apply his notions to the nature and eventual deterioration of the close relationship between Francis (Francie) Brady and his childhood friend Joe Purcell as a contribution to an understanding about the homicidal behavior of the narrator Francis Brady.*

[Keywords] *Irish novel; Patrick McCabe; The Butcher Boy; Irish literature; Jacques Derrida; ethics and religion*