**Sinéad Morrissey**

**MY LIFE ACCORDING TO YOU**

So I was born and was small for ages  
and then suddenly a cardboard box  
appeared with two furry black ears  
sticking out of it it made me nervous  
but I was brave and gave it a bell  
to play with and then out it jumped  
and loved me it was my cat I called it  
Morris Morrissey it matched  
my mother’s Morris Minor

For the next bit

I was a teenager and then I grew up  
I had a flat in Dublin and a boyfriend  
he was a vet little bed little kitchen  
little towel rack lots of little cups  
and saucers and then off he went  
to Africa he sent me pictures  
of giraffes and of the second  
tallest waterfall in the world  
when he got back he wasn’t my friend

anymore I cried

for a week I was also at university  
a bigger place than school with bigger  
chairs and desks and when it finished  
I found a suitcase it was red  
with purple flowers it had a scarf  
around the handle I put in everything  
I needed socks and a jotter and snacks  
and took a plane across the ocean  
to Japan to visit Godzilla

where it was

summer and boiling hot and the people  
all kept wind chimes to make it  
cooler and rode bicycles to the shops  
and at the same time held up umbrellas  
though it wasn’t even raining  
and when I met a man in a bright  
white classroom the darkest parts  
of our eyes turned into swirls then question  
marks then hearts so we got married

and went hippety

hoppety splat a mountain a lake  
a desert we bought a house a tiny one  
at first and then a massive one a baby  
knocked at the door one night  
but didn’t come in and then another  
baby came he cried a lot  
we thought he had tummy ache  
we gave him a bath in a bucket  
he was just lonely

for his sister

to come and keep him company  
but you were still floating about  
in space inside your bubble egg  
it had accessories a switch  
for going sideways a switch  
for going upside down or faster  
it was a cross between a sparkly green  
and a sparkly silver the moon  
was very annoying and then whenever

we’d all been bored

on our own for long enough down  
you came on a path of lightning  
to finish off the family you were born  
on the living room floor at three  
in the morning in front of the trampoline-  
sofa and I heard them say A Girl!and sat up straightaway we were both  
pretty and I opened out my arms  
and that’s it really

When you grow up

I’m going to be so busy taking you  
to the house shop waiting by the play-  
ground gates to bring your children  
swimming I won’t be any different  
I’ll keep your room exactly as it is  
for you to visit bric-a-brac collection  
on the shelf the bed your father built  
the letters of your name in neon  
appearing on the ceiling

when it’s time