



Dancing in the Heather

Noirin Leahy Mele

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Set in 1912 during the Irish migration, on the hauntingly beautiful Great Blasket Island off the coast of Ireland, the gilded age of New York City and the streets of San Francisco, Dancing In The Heather is the story of Aeylish O'Kelly, a poor island girl who risks her life to save David Summerland, a wealthy playboy from San Francisco, when his boat capsizes in the wild Atlantic Ocean.

David falls in love with Aeylish, who is known to her beloved island as 'Beauty', and although he is promised to a socialite back home in San Francisco, he knows he will always love the girl who rescued him from the ocean and saved him from a lifestyle so different to hers. However, steeped in the values of her culture, Aeylish is set to emigrate to New York in a bid to earn money for her family and marry her childhood friend, Maurice – a sacred contract arranged by their families. She desperately fights her own emotions for David, insisting that their worlds are too vastly different and that the chasm cannot be bridged. Their lives are separated and their journeys are marked with the most trying of obstacles – scandal, rape, tragedy and betrayal. But will their undeniable love for each other overcome the outcry against it? Or will it become lost in time, like many a great love?

Dancing in the Heather Details

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Author : Noirin Leahy Mele

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From Reader Review Dancing in the Heather for online ebook

Judith Lott says

Could not put it down - until I had to go to bed! Such a good read - thanks to Goodreads!

Kathryn says

I really liked this book. Set partly in Ireland and America during 1912, it tells the story of an Irish immigrant who saved a wealthy young American male from drowning off the Great Blasket Island and her trip to America. Both of them are engaged to be married to others, him to someone in the upper echelon of San Francisco society and her to her best friend since childhood in an arranged marriage. It is full of twists and turns that prevent the two from being together. One wonders will they ever end up together. Although this is the author's first published work, it is very well written and you want to keep on reading to the end.

Darlene Cruz says

So intoxicating and pleasurable of a romance read. But as always someone or something interferes with that union. Written so well that I was made to believe it could happen, the passion, ahh... Faith to rely on or did they? So descriptive that it made me feel like I was actually there seeing everything through their eyes and than some. Wonderful story indeed! I received a free book that I had won through Goodreads First Read Giveaway. Thank you, Darlene Cruz

Leota says

It was a good romantic beach read!!

Dilys says

I fell in love with the Great Blasket Island & its inhabitants. Aeylish O'Kelly & her family were poor but happy & when Aeylish rescued David Summerland a wealthy playboy from the sea they fell in love. Several things came to pull them apart as true love never runs smoothly. A lovely story which I thoroughly enjoyed from start to finish. WON THIS ON GOODREADS GIVE-AWAY.

Jeanne says

Dancing in the Heather is a very entertaining first novel for author, Noirin Leahy Mele. I truly enjoyed this feel-good, very romantic story set in 1912 New York and off-the coast of Ireland. The author has done a

splendid job of researching the Irish culture of the times and brings home the feel of Irish traditions, beliefs, and circumstances.

As with most romances, we expect a happy-ever-after ending, and this story delivers. Along the way, with twists and turns of fate, we are kept guessing what will happen next to the star-crossed lovers. Through it all, we always know that love will somehow win.

I'll admit the novel is in need of a good edit, but if one dives into the heart of the story, the reward will be a sweet romance with a good dose of descriptive history. We are given hints of the deprivations which drove Irish emigrants out of their beloved land and the hardships awaiting them in America. This novel presents a rosy and positive view of that dark time. The author seems to say that if one remains true to one's principles, faith, and traditions, good will follow. Why not?

After reading the book, I wish to travel to the Great Blasket Island to see if any remnants remain of the Irish way of life described in the story. I hope so.
