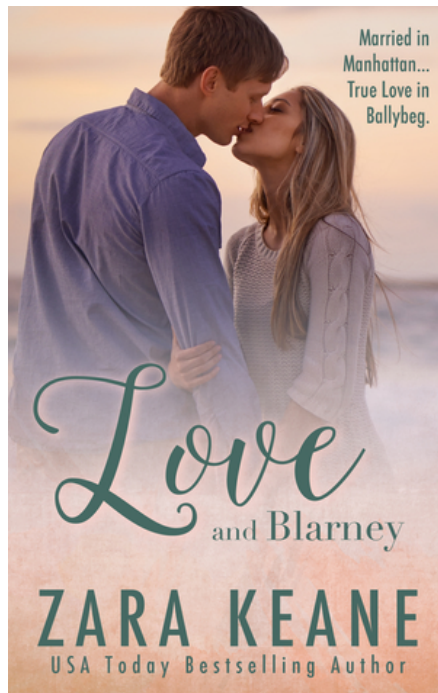




Love and Blarney

Zara Keane

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A marriage in trouble and a ticking clock...

Ruairí MacCarthy abandoned his life in New York to deal with a family crisis in Ireland. Twelve months later, he's traded his three-piece suits and Wall Street career for jeans and a job managing his family's pub in Ballybeg. When his estranged wife bursts back into his life looking for a reconciliation, Ruairí must decide if home is where the heart is.

Jayme King wants Ruairí back. She's prepared to battle sheep, floods, and crazy Irish in-laws to get him. Discovering he lied about his past was a shock, but Jayme's had months come to terms with the betrayal. Letting Ruairí go was the biggest mistake of her life. Can she persuade him to return to America and give their marriage a second chance?

Love and Blarney Details

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Author : Zara Keane

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From Reader Review Love and Blarney for online ebook

Janet says

Ruairí MacCarthy is an immensely likable hero. He's obviously still saddened by the breakup of his marriage—and bitterly regrets not telling his pediatrician wife that his past is mired in family troubles of one sort and another. But he's a loyal son and brother and he's doing what has to be done (he thinks!). Jayme King is a darling, much tougher than the woman Ruairí remembers.

I would have loved the story to be a bit longer but thank goodness, there are more Ballybeg books to enjoy.

Rhonda Campbell says

Good read

This is a good book. I really liked Ruairi when he was introduced in the first book. He is the strong, silent type, the perfect bartender and you can tell he's had his heart broken before. Finding out what happened between him and Jayme kind of took away from his appeal to me. I liked Jayme and admire her for coming after her man. Once again I find the female character is the one who dominates the story. Which is fine with me I like strong female characters!

Staphysagria says

Really sweet, loveable, vivid characters, beautiful description of the scenery. Some moments in the story are written so clearly that you automatically start to reel off a film before your mind's eye. I forgot to mention I received this book by insta freebie in return for an honest review. Well, I am hooked now and will probably end up buying the entire series....

Tea says

Short and not particularly deep, *Love and Blarney* is an inoffensive tale without much conflict and just as little romance. It's more a slice-of-life peek at the lives of a couple whose marriage has hit a blip brought on by a complete lack of communication. Yet, that lack is believable under the circumstances. (I've known people who have made similar choices for similar reason.)

Izzie d says

It is a good story but the Hero's attitude annoyed me to be honest. The heroine basically had to chase him down. She ignored his calls but he had told an epic lie, despite his 'I omitted the truth, I didn't lie' excuse.

No cheating, HEA and an epilogue.

Angie Peoples says

Zara Keane doesn't disappoint with this second installment of the Ballybeg series. The beautiful setting in Ireland makes me want to go there. The characters were fascinating and well developed. Ruairi is a hunk of a man and sounds like the perfect dream man while Jamye is the perfect educated woman. Together, they make magic. I'm already starting the third book because I can't wait to read it today.

Jackie Turner says

Honestly, I hadn't been expecting the second book in the Ballybeg series to be so short but it was a really sweet read! I loved learning about the woman who had been in the mysterious pub owner's life from the first book!

It was nice as an American to have certain parts phrased so that I could understand them due to Jayme also being American and traveling to Ireland to get some closure with her husband.

The secret she'd been hiding was a little heart wrenching but I like that Zara Keane drew some attention towards the topic!

MsChris1161 says

Zara Keane gives her readers another delightful second chance love story with LOVE AND BLARNEY, the second book in her Ballybeg series set in the quaint Irish town of the same name. I'm always happy to be reading a romantic story about couples who love each other deeply despite being separated and like nothing better than paging through as it all works out.

Love and Blarney reunites Ruairi MacCarthy and Jayme King, a couple so desperately in love they married in a fairytale Manhattan wedding within six months of meeting and lived together blissfully for three years. Sharing so much with each other yet sharing so little at the same time. A family emergency forces Ruairi back to Ballybeg, but before doing so he has to tell his wife some of the secrets he's been keeping. And then he leaves her with no promise of return. A shocked and heartbroken Jayme goes through a devastating emergency of her own, alone and without her husband's support. As the day their divorce will be final nears she decides she must take one last chance to win her husband back and heads over to Ireland.

Much like Zara's first book, Love and Shenanigans, along with the Love story in Love and Blarney there are colorful characters, amusing dialogue, and matchmakers on every corner. Ruairi's Mom and sisters give him appropriate rations for not telling anyone he'd gotten married when he was away in the states and warmly welcome Jayme into the family. I loved his sister's. They had the impish, scheming personalities of all younger sister's. Olivia makes an appearance and Gavin and Fiona are mentioned, but sadly no mention of cute little Wiggly-Poo. Love and Blarney is a quick, lighthearted read, that warmed my heart all the way up to the HEA ending. 4I would have really liked to have even more of Jayme and Ruairi's story. 4 stars

~Complimentary copy received in exchange for a honest review.

Corinne says

After Love and Shenanigans I knew I'd need to read more of the goings on in this fictitious small town. I like Zara Keane's even writing style.

This short story spans only a few days, followed by an epilogue "7 months later" (with somewhat predictable content). Ruairí plays a small role in the first book, but this can be read as a stand alone. I had to smirk at his sisters' attempts to help the reconciliation of the couple along. Overall light-hearted, despite some serious content.

I received a free copy from the author and decided to post my honest review.

Karla says

3 Stars! Sweet addition to this fun series, but it had the potential to be so much more!

Oh, how I wish the author would have made Ruairí and Jayme the stars of a full length book and not just given them a novella. It had the bones for a great second chance love story, but it was over before it even got started. My problem was, I didn't get to fall in love with Ruairí and Jayme as much as they were in love with each other.

I had the pleasure of reading Love and Shenanigans a while ago and it got me hooked on this series, the author's distinct writing style, her fun quirky characters and their zany lives. Zara Keane has a tendency to reveal the main character's past history, their connection, a little later in the story, which worked in Love and Shenanigans, but unfortunately with this book I think she might lose some readers along the way. Why is that? Because, all the key details come at the tail end of the book, and readers aren't baited with enough tidbits in the beginning. Due to the length of the story, it goes by way to quickly, and the reader/story connection felt like it was lost. I think a prologue, with some flashback details, would have added so much to Ruairí and Jayme's story, there was so much there to explore!

I'm certainly no author, but I know what I like, and with this author I wanted more, because she does more so well! However, I still enjoyed what I read, love the setting, the characters, and the accuracy and craziness of family life in Ireland.

I am really looking forward to reading about Jonas and Olivia in Love and Leprechauns, the third book in the Ballybeg series. Both these characters caught my attention in *Love and Shenanigans*, and I'm curious to see how their story plays out. I have no doubt the clever Zara Keane will do their story justice and make it an interesting and fun read!

** A copy of the book was provided by the author in exchange for an honest review**

☆ BJ's Book Blog ☆ Janeane ☆ says

Copy received from the author for an honest review

Love and Blarney is a novella in the Ballybeg series, and you don't have to have read Love And Shenanigans first, but why would you want to miss out on the sweet fun read that it is.

Jayne and Ruairi's (Rory) marriage is in tatters, divorce about to become final and they are on opposite sides of the Atlantic. Misunderstandings, miscommunications and stubbornness have gotten them where they are today.

I loved that Jayme was the one to "man" up and travel across the globe to confront Ruairi about their situation. How strong she must have been to do that, with the fear of his rejection - again - at the forefront of her mind. I am pretty darn sure that I could not have done that.

I was a bit surprised with Ruairi's reaction at first, but as we got deeper into the story it was understandable - kind of? Some of the reasoning behind the leaving and the secrets and lies were a bit flimsy, but when your heart is breaking we don't always do the sensible thing.

I LOVED Ruairi's family - well, not his dad, but his mum and sisters, especially Sharon and Marcella. Love how they are all in each other's business, especially his and Jayme's, playing matchmaker.

So, will Ruairi and Jayme put the mistakes of their past behind them and have that fantastic relationship they used to have, or is it all too late for a HEA?

Uh Uh, for that you are going to have to read for yourself.

"If I do this, it's because I'm insane or insanely in love," he muttered underneath his breath.

Jayne's heart skipped a beat. "I'm kind of hoping it's the latter."

His warm brown eyes met hers. "You know how I feel about you."

"Do I?"

Ms Keane writes so descriptively that you can feel yourself being drawn into the landscape of the story. You can feel the cold rain, see the green fields of the countryside, imagine yourself up in the Blarney Castle, leaning back to kiss the Blarney Stone (and I whole heartedly agree with Ruairi, that thing has gotta be a hotbed of disease - cold sores anybody eeeww!!)

I was completely enthralled with Love and Blarney, read it in one sitting and didn't want it to ever end.

So Ms Keane, when can I have the next installment of the Ballybeg series?

Nancy says

2.5 stars

I was hopeful when I started reading this--I do adore a romance set in Ireland, and I'm particularly fond of Cork. I didn't feel that I really got a feel for Ireland here, and even though the H/h were an established couple from the beginning, the story just skimmed along the surface. We never get to know the characters very well. They remain sketches rather than becoming portraits, with only the barest glimpses at what has kept them apart for a year and precipitated their pending divorce. I wanted more to sink my teeth into.

Charlene Rowe says

Short in more ways than one

Typical kindle lack of decent editing or proofing. This is a pretty short story..with a bit of story missing as well. I liked the characters but wish it was all fleshed out a bit more

Dympna Mahon says

In Love and Blarney, the story centers around Ruairí MacCarthy, local pub owner. Years ago, he left Ballybeg for New York, thinking he'd never return. But now he's back to take care of the pub and some pressing family issues.

Ruairí has some loose ends to clean up. For one, he's left behind a wife in New York that no one knows about. He's never told her details about his family, and both of his worlds collide when Jayme shows up in Ballybeg in a last effort to see if their marriage can be saved.

But before that can happen, they both have secrets they need to share with each other, and Ballybeg is a perfect setting for that to take place.

I enjoyed the happy ending to Love & Blarney and had it read in an hour as I was interested to find out how everything would work out! :)

Judy says

I liked this book, but it was so short that the plot seemed to stop suddenly. Just not quite enough there to make me happy. Otherwise the setting and characters were pleasant enough. I don't remember the first book in this series being so abbreviated.
