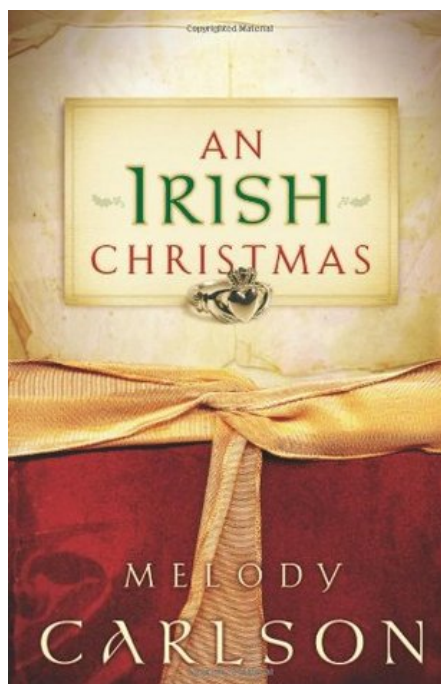




An Irish Christmas

Melody Carlson

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For Colleen, life is spinning out of control. She just lost her husband, and her relationship with her young adult son Jamie is crumbling. Should she confess to him the secret that has been haunting her for twenty years? Jamie has a few secrets of his own. When he announces his plans to join the military, Colleen decides it's time for the two of them to take a trip together--to Ireland. The truth they discover there could fulfill both their dreams in a way neither ever thought possible. An Irish Christmas is a captivating story of love, deception, and secret passions, from popular and prolific author Melody Carlson.

An Irish Christmas Details

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Author : Melody Carlson

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From Reader Review An Irish Christmas for online ebook

TheReadingKnitter/ Kasey says

Melody Carlson is the bestselling author of more than 200 books, including *My Son, the Savior* and *The Christmas Bus*. She lives with her husband in Sisters, Oregon.

For Colleen, life is spinning out of control. She just lost her husband, and her relationship with her young adult son Jamie is crumbling. Should she confess to him the secret that has been haunting her for twenty years?

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An Irish Christmas is a captivating story of love, deception, and secret passions, from popular and prolific author Melody Carlson.

My Review - this book was just okay for me. It took me until about page 80 or so for it to really get good for me and even then it was predictable. I loved the actual story about Jamie, Liam and Colleen though. And the ending was good, which as I've said before is rare for me to like an ending. I'll be reading more Melody Carlson and hoping for less predictably.

Lisa says

This was another book for my Holiday Reading Challenge hosted by All About {n}. Once again I want to tell you how much I love Holiday novels. They usually make me feel warm and fuzzy and get me in the holiday spirit. Apparently, this season just hasn't been my best season for picking great holiday reads.

An Irish Christmas was a very short read. The writing tended to be simplistic and predictable. It didn't really capture my attention and pull me into the story. I did, however, enjoy the descriptions of Ireland in December. The country sounds beautiful and makes me want to take a vacation there soon.

For me, the characters themselves were believable but their expectations of each other were not. Both the mother and son have MAJOR secrets they are keeping from each other and they expect the other person to not be horribly upset when they reveal them. I don't think this is believable at all. If I was as deceptive as either of these characters I would expect monumental explosions once I revealed my secret. I was talking to my mother about this book (she read it for her bookclub) and she agreed with me that if I ever kept a secret like that I'd be disowned and disinherited...not really...but she did say she'd be disappointed in me and we all know how catastrophic that is coming from a parent.

Another thing about this novel that I didn't enjoy was the ending. Without giving away too much, it was too unrealistic and extremely unlikely.

Mandy says

Not too much Christmas in this one, but still a great story. Jamie bugged me a little during the first half of the book, he was quite the selfish little brat, but he grew up as the book progressed. I thought this story was adorable and heartfelt. I have read several of Melody Carlson's Christmas books and I am always pleased in the end. Her books always contain a fantastic moral to the story, her characters always grow through their trials, and the books always hold my attention. I will definitely be reading more of her Christmas books next year.

Vicki Andrada says

I don't typically read Christmas books in the summer. Some friends and I decided to read one for the Christmas in July thing. I am very glad I did! This book was great! It shows how poisoning secrets can be, how the Lord can make things right when we've messed them up, how his love can shine through if we just let it, that he can guide us if we just trust in him! Loved it!

Hannah says

3.5 stars

This one was fun and bittersweet at the same time. It really caught the heart of a mother's love for her son, who she's lost touch with. While parts of it were pretty predictable, it was enjoyable to read and to watch the mother and son mature past their previous griefs. I haven't read a lot set in the 1960s, but I felt like it really captured the feel of the time period and then of Ireland as well.

Annette Moore says

This book was totally, completely, and utterly amazing! If I could give it ten stars, I would! It's definitely going to be one I'll read over and over again, I'm pretty certain of that! When Jamie announces his intention to join the Air Force, his mother, Colleen, both in attempting to dissuade him from doing so and to try and mend their rocky relationship, arranges for them to travel to Ireland for the holidays. There, secrets come out, and unexpected joys await. That's all I'll say. I loved it! However, I don't want to spoil it for anyone who hasn't yet read it. This may be a short little book, but in its pages you'll find love, laughter, tears, and a lesson in completely surrendering all to our Lord.

Lynda says

A widowed mother, Colleen and her adult son Jamie are each keeping secrets from each other. Because this is Christian fiction, after a few chapters I thought it was an updated version of the prodigal son however I was wrong. It is more a story of truth and forgiveness. Carlson's characters are always likeable and she does not hit you over the head with the message. This was a pleasant holiday story about how keeping secrets can make life so difficult as well as finding freedom when nothing is hidden.

Nancy says

Even though I guessed what was going to happen, I enjoyed the anticipation of waiting for it to take place. This was a good story about a family with one grown son, a mother, and a father, who had died a year and a half before the story takes place. We are told there are secrets that will be revealed when the mom and son go to Ireland for the Christmas holidays. I liked hearing the descriptions of where the son and mom went in different parts of Ireland, and the things the mom bought. The son loves music, and he finds musicians in a pub, and makes friends with them. In another city he finds a restaurant that has a piano, and he is given permission to play it. We learn about the relationship of the son and mother, and the changes they learn to make with each other, after their secrets are revealed.

Regina Spiker says

Colleen and her grown-up son, Jamie, have kept secrets from each other, not little secrets - but blow it out of the water secrets, secrets that could tear apart their fragile relationship. While Jamie was in college, his Dad/Colleen's husband passed away from a heart condition. Now alone and adrift, Colleen sells the flourishing shoe business that Jamie does not want to run and is seriously considering downsizing her beautiful but much too large home. When Jamie comes home from college and with a sudden decision, but really a cover-up announces his plan to join the military - Colleen makes a sudden decision as well. A trip to Ireland at Christmas will be where she tells Jamie the secret only her and her late husband hid.

Rather predictable, sometimes downright unbelievable, but with beautiful descriptions of Ireland, the pubs, and a small Irish island named Inishbofin, Carlson writes a sweet little inspirational with a nice surprise ending.

Barbara says

I enjoyed this very unique story set partially in Ireland, and I love how it ended. The only drawback in my mind was that some of the circumstances seemed just a little bit too far-fetched to be believable. Things worked out a little bit too smoothly and quickly to seem plausible. Melody Carlson has a fun-to-read writing style, and I look forward to reading more of her books.

Loraine says

Colleen, a recent widow, and her son, Jamie both are hiding secrets that could tear the two of them apart. Will a trip to Ireland for Christmas bring them together?

Told through the viewpoints of both Colleen and Jamie, we get a glimpse of what both of them are thinking and feeling as their secrets begin to unravel and a person from the past enters their lives. As their journey through Ireland progresses, they each begin to understand their similarities and differences. Carlson does a wonderful job of setting her reader in the midst of a small town in Ireland filling me with the sounds, feel, and warmth of an Irish Christmas. The story is heartfelt and touching as Colleen and Jamie open up to one

another, share their secrets, and both began to understand what from the past has led them to the present.

Definitely recommend for a tender Christmas read.

Irisheyz77 says

An Irish Christmas by Melody Carlson is a story that is told from two different points of view, that of the two main characters: Colleen Fitzgerald and her son Jaime. The story takes place in the early 1960s shortly after the loss of Colleen's husband.

I was really excited about this book but found myself disappointed in it. I often felt that the dialog was a little forced. Especially when it came to inserting slang words from the day. The plot was also horrible predictable and the characters would get on my nerves. I can't tell you how many times I wanted to reach through the pages to smack Jaime for the way that he acted towards his mother. This boy dropped out of school and lied to his parents for years.....yet he when he told his mother he got angry at her when she was upset with him for the lies. He would then blow up other little things that she would do into bigger deals then they wore for nothing else but to make her feel bad. Yet through it all she would forgive him and often agree that he was right to be mad.

The story was a fairly quick read so for that I was thankful and the writing while not stellar could have been worse. While I am not sure if this is a book that I'd recommend to others I can't say that I regret the time that I spent reading it.

tickettoanywhere.blogspot.com

Suzanne Barrett says

It is 1963 and Colleen Frederick's life is disintegrating. President John F. Kennedy has been assassinated, Hal, her husband of twenty-two years has died, and her relationship with her son, Jamie is deteriorating.

Jamie wants to join the Air Force, something given the escalation of what would become the Vietnam War, Colleen passionately does not want, and Jamie isn't interested in the shoe business Hal wanted him to take over. Moreover, Jamie's vagueness about his college education makes Colleen wonder if he's been completely truthful to her. But Colleen, who feels more than a little guilt at not having loved Hal as much as he cared for her, has a secret of her own, one she feels compelled to reveal to Jamie. A Christmas trip to Ireland seems the right place to do it.

An Irish Christmas is told in first person, in the viewpoints of Colleen and Jamie. Ms. Carlson pens a story of secrets, passions and a family coming to know and accept their differences as well as their similarities. While a bit slow-moving at first, I found myself staying up late to follow Colleen's and Jamie's journey to fulfillment through letting God be in control. At times, both Colleen's and Jamie's reactions seemed a bit over the top, but I cheered for each of them because I sensed real love just beneath the surface. The ending was entirely predictable, yet it grabbed my heart just the same.

The secondary characters supported the story and felt entirely Irish. Ms. Carlson made me feel I was there once again. Well-written and detailed, An Irish Christmas left a warm feeling in my heart. A lovely story for Christmas or any time.

Comment

kelley says

I downloaded this book for two reasons. One) I had just finished "Christmas at Harrington's" by this same author. I enjoyed it so much I was certain that I would enjoy other books written by Ms. Carlson. Two) As I browsed the list of books available by the author this book "An Irish Christmas" caught my eye. I've always wanted to go to Ireland and I love Christmas. So I thought this would be a win/win/ for me. I was right. I like the way Ms. Carlson writes. Life is not peachy but her characters are made of stern stuff and weather the storms of life with courage. I liked how the story evolved and wrapped up as Colleen and Jamie discovered Ireland, themselves and each other.

Sara says

This short story is very enjoyable. The main characters are so sweet and pure-hearted, that it's easy to forgive their mistakes. After recently visiting Ireland (though not the same regions), I could really imagine the places and people that the characters met along their journey, thanks to Carlson's beautiful descriptions. Melody Carlson drops plenty of clues for the reader along the way, so though the book may be a little predictable, it is the only way to feel closure with this type of story! I was glad to spend a few days of my Christmas holiday reading this warm story!
