



Allegiance: A Dublin Novella

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William Young is an MI5 informant, using his working-class background to gain the trust of groups deemed a threat to the Crown. Tiring of his double life, William travels to Dublin for one last assignment: infiltrating a group of IRA supporters. But these "rebels" are not what he expected — and one of them, a firebrand named Adam with a past as painful as his own, shakes William's uncertain footing to its foundation. As the crisis in Dublin escalates, William treads a dangerous path between the violence in the streets, the vengeance of the Crown, and the costliest risk of all — falling in love with the man he was sent to betray.

Allegiance: A Dublin Novella Details

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From Reader Review Allegiance: A Dublin Novella for online ebook

Julio Genao says

[*"you dropped this."* (hide spoiler)]

Sheziss says

Can someone die of cuteness?

Because I think I did!

I love the 20s. I've never read a book set in Ireland in that period of time, so it was brand new for me. I could feel myself absorbed by the setting, the streets, the people, the smells, the flavor of the great beer and the awful whisky, the fashion, the music, the way of thinking of the people living in Dublin... In fact, the SPIRIT of Ireland! (From my modest opinion, I try to run away from stereotypes :P).

William Young is the main character in this story. He's a Scot whose aim is to be a policeman, with the intention of maintain the order and control in his city, maintain the peace and avoid the people to suffer what he had to live during his teens. He has seen the worst and he only wants to move forward and make a little difference in Glasgow, to make it a better place, a place where people live happy and without fear.

But for achieve that, he has to follow rules first, so Lord Christopher from the Secret Service Bureau (future MI5, oh my, James Bond-Daniel Craig! Although I've always been Roger Moore's team or Pierce Brosnan's) commands him to gain the trust from the Irish lines and get information about strange acts that could accomplish terrorist attacks or a coup against the Treaty just signed. The quest is not something he is looking forward to, but in order to reach his own ends he has to act with those means. He's not a supporter of the Treaty but he isn't against the Englishmen either, he's just against the violence.

So, in order to accomplish he mission, he arrives to a tavern where the "head" of some disloyal portion of the population lives, and lucky for him he is hired and soon he settles in the amateur group of Irish supporters. He is supposed to maintain a distance from them and not get emotionally involved, but when he notices, it's too late. In part due to the people surrounding him, in part because of Adam.

Adam Elliot is a scoundrel young man with amounts of the leader Cs: "charisma, cockiness and charm". He is famous for his numerous conquests and his wits, and he is suspected of being very involved in the cause.

He's irresistible and is shameless for his dubious actions.

William feels quickly fascinated with Adam because of his confident and wicked façade. Soon they're friends and with the following weeks, they become something more.

And they felt so natural together! The tale is told quietly, without great surprises or irregularities. It's smooth and with soft landings, in a sweet and simple way. This deceiving simplicity turns into feelings and declarations with no weird sensations. When they give in to each other you can't be shocked because it's meant to be like that. They are not sappy but they are not insipid, either. It's true the sex scenes are not that impressive or explicitly written, but I didn't miss them at all.

You believe the transition between the mischievous guy Adam is and the lovable man with whom William falls in love. I adore slow burns and their story is one of those, with no rush but with no pause. Just... gradually being mended together, until you think being joined in one is something to be expected and the opposite are lies.

So, you see, I couldn't take my eyes off of this book for long. I only wanted the breadcrumbs they left me or to watch them through a hole in the wall, because they are SO cute together I just wanted more from them!

But their little heaven is threatened to be broken in pieces with the different conflicts to come: opposite allegiances, the secret role of William in the dispute, the betrayal his chosen side would inevitability bring, the pain in Adam's heart... All of that will have to be sorted out to have a future together and with the people they love in a safe position.

The ending is cute as the whole book is and I only could sigh contently when I finished it.

"You broke your loyalty for me," Adam whispered.

"I found my loyalty because of you," William said. "I will never forget that."

Anna Graham says

A heart-stopping tale of loyalty and love; William's duty is overshadowed by the honesty he encounters in a Dublin pub. Keen descriptions and tight dialogue frame the action as suspense builds, resulting in a satisfying, touching conclusion. Domin's strengths are her authentic characters and sharp eye for detail. Great prose!

Milica says

I have no words to describe how **deeply touched** I was by this novella...I read it yesterday and it's like in my mind I'm still in the streets of Dublin, following William, or in that pub dancing and laughing alongside Adam and him, or just watching William tearing apart, trying to make the right decision, and feeling his inner turmoil as if it were my own. Allegiance is a perfect blend of history and romance...**the story about friendship, allegiance, duty, fighting for a freedom and love**...and no matter how much I wished we'd get more of William and Adam, those stolen moments **evoked more emotions in me than most of the full-length novels I've read**. I honestly can't recommend it high enough...

DF says

I've said it before, I'll say it again- Heather Domin does an amazing job at building historical settings. The events in Allegiance take place right after the Easter Rising in Dublin (1916) - a time some say it's controversial, for others it's the rebellion that shaped modern Irish history. She's chosen her main characters to be an Irish, suspected IRA supporter, and a Scot - working for MI5. And in the middle of all this, she's created a very beautiful and emotional tale of love and bravery. Of two men finding / re-discovering where their loyalties lay.

" You love what you bleed for, his father had once said. And sooner or later, you bleed for what you love."
It's a great book / + it's free/ and I'll probably keep getting back to it.

karlakolumna says

3.5 stars.

This is a free ebook by Heather Dormin, that can be downloaded on smashwords in several different formats, such as Epub, Kindle, PDF...

Link: <https://www.smashwords.com/books/view...>

The historical setting is really well done, and I enjoyed reading this book a lot.

The plot--a British spy (well, Scottish, to be exact) on an assignment in Ireland to infiltrate an alleged militant IRA group finding himself falling for one member of said group and beginning to doubt whether he

is fighting on the right side or not--is very much to my liking.

Although I enjoyed this book, I have to admit that something was missing. I was never *totally* caught up in the story, it wasn't as gripping as other books I've read so far.

Don't get me wrong, it was engaging, and I loved the historical Irish scenery, and both Adam and William (<- spy) are likable and interesting MCs...

... *but* to be fair to those books and authors that I rated as a 4 stars-read, I can't give "Allegiance: A Dublin Novella" the full 4 stars, therefore, it's "just" 3.5.

Dumbledore11214 says

I liked Heir of Raetia by this author very much, so when I saw that she released this FREE story, of course I wanted to read and review it. Have I mentioned that it is free? I mean ebook's edition is free, you have to pay for paperback. I was a little worried that since this is her earlier work (three- four years earlier? I am not exactly sure when Heir of Raetia was released, 2009 or 2010), the writing would not be as strong and enjoyable. Personally I still enjoyed it very much, I thought she managed to give the characters depth and dimension and portrayed the historical settings very vividly. I know next to nothing about Irish war for independence, so I cannot be a judge of how realistically settings are portrayed, but here is what I know - to me the writer managed to reflect what is the essence of every war, of every civil war of the sorts. Everybody thinks that their side is right, a lot of good people have their own reasons for participating in these conflicts and it always ends with a lot of innocent blood spilled and on both sides. I thought that this was close to perfect development of "from enemies to lovers" trope, I liked how not William nor Adam had any time to spend angsty about why they are attracted to each other. I mean, William spends some time (truly not too much) angsty but that's because he is attracted to the man he perceives as potential enemy initially, not because he is attracted to a man. And Adam is not a POV character, but when he speaks I also have not noticed that he has much angst to share about the fact that he is attracted to a man. In fact, while it mostly made a perfect sense for me - both men involved in a war in their respective positions and it seems that what is happening around them and how they are dealing with it is what they spent their time thinking about and love just happens because it happened and they take it, but while William seemed to always be bisexual, I was under impression that Adam was attracted to women all his life and while it is not said, I thought that it was possible that William was his first male lover. I don't know, wasn't he just a touch confused by that? Again, I am not complaining much, as I said, it makes sense to me that at times of war, men are ready to die at any given day (and Adam certainly is ready to die at any given day) and will take any joy and happiness that comes their way without much hesitation. I thought chemistry between them was raw and genuine, I loved how complex William was and how eventually he found his real loyalties and the older I get the more I agree that loyalty to the person you love is the most important one loyalty in the world. "Everything was complicated; Adam was simple" - so very true

Feliz says

A beautiful story - two strong heroes, a grippingly dire setting and a very satisfying end. Great secondary cast, too, especially Mary and Meg.

Mel says

You love what you bleed for, his father had once said. And sooner or later, you bleed for what you love.

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is a story set in 1922, after the Anglo-Irish Treaty and during the following Civil War and the time leading up to it.

We witness the events through the life and fate of William, a Scot, employed by the Brits to infiltrate some supposed IRA supporters.

The author does a wonderful job with creating a rich atmosphere and paints a vivid picture of Dublin and its citizens. I love when a setting comes to life, when you can smell and taste the world, when you can hear the music playing.

I somehow really like the gloomy, yet exciting vibe that a pub gives off, and therefore loved that a lot of the story takes place there.

The characters are well developed, too. They are intriguing and distinct, but not over the top, just normal folks trying to make the best out of their lives:

"This is all I know, Glasgow. All a man can do is what he thinks right."

This is a very slow-paced story, taking its time to show us the world, indulging, then suddenly picking up the pace and swiping you off your feet.

I loved how the romance is so subtly developed, with just the slightest notions and hints. And I think that it all played out perfectly in the end. While it wasn't always easy to read, it was very well worth it.

There are a few moments when I hoped the author would have brought out the characters's thoughts more clearly, when I had to fill in the blanks instead.

The events before the Civil War, the lives of the population, their hopes and struggles within this difficult times, the interwoven spy plot, was very interesting and I loved reading about it.

For some reason, this book is free, which is kinda amazing. I really liked the book and I recommend it :-)

This book counts for my following reading challenges 2015:

- 100 books in total
- 20 books, trying something new

Giedre says

3.5/5

You love what you bleed for, his father had once said. And sooner or later, you bleed for what you love.

A free m/m historical romance novella set (mostly) in 1920s Dublin. The plot is a bit too convenient, but *Allegiance* is full of feels of the best kind. If you want to read about a Scot and an Irishman getting their well-earned HEA, look no further.

Alona says

BR with Mark.

Em Chainey (Bookowski) says

14.07.2014: Hâlâ etkisindeyim...

I LOVED IT!

(1922 K??-?lkbahar-Sonbahar/ Dublin, Glasgow, Londra)

?rlanda'da gergin bir hava var. IRA, Cumhuriyetçiler ve ?ngiltere aras?nda ciddi sert rüzgârlar esiyor.

?ngiltere taraf?ndan görevlendirilen William Young, Dublin'e gelerek ?üpheli bir tak?m ki?ileri (Allegiance ad?nda gizli bir grup) gözlemlemek ile yükümlüdür.

Burada kendine yeni bir hayat kuracak s?radan bir ?skoç olarak Gerald ve k?z? Mary'nin bar?nda çal??maya ba?lar. K?sa sürede onlar?n güvenini kazan?r ve tabii ki Allegiance'in da. Bu grupta bir de Adam Elliott ad?nda bir de genç ?rlandalı? vard?r. William ile Adam hiç ummadıkları ?ekilde yak?nla?ırlar.

Willam'in geçmi?i, Adam'in vatan sevgisi, Allegiance, ?rlanda, IRA ve ?ngiltere'yi bar?nd?ran çok de?i?kenli denklemde A?K kendine nas?l bir yol bulacaktır?

Çok çok sevdim. Kesinlikle iyi yaz?lm?? ve kurgulanm?? güzel bir hikaye idi. Kötü son da olabilirdi aç?kças? ama öyle olmad???na sevindim. Ke?ke çevrilmesi söz konusu olsa.

Edina Rose says

4.5 stars

The author managed to make me SEE and FEEL Dublin in the twenties. The romance really starts in the second part of the book, and the end is really poignant. The author's style is very fluid, the plot is captivating and the characters are varied, well developed and feel real. I'm impressed. This author is really skilled. I didn't give 5 stars because my emotons were not engaged to a 5 stars level.

Anna (Bananas!) says

I love the historical Dublin setting, the strong female characters, and the central romance between Scottish William and younger, Irish Adam. It felt real and bittersweet. My only complaint is that it was a bit too easy how William insinuated himself amongst the rebels. Overall a very satisfying story.

Simsala says

4,5 stars upped to the full five for saving my weekend!

I was considering giving up reading altogether after starting - or better said trying - to read around 10 books from my tbr pile. Most of them turned out to be not even worth adding them as DNF. Why did I have to kiss ten frogs (payed for) to find a prince (for free)? Brrrrrrrrrrr.....

Allegiance was a well written story with a great sense of time and place, likeable "real" heroes, secondary characters I wanted to hug and slap around, heart-stopping moments (it took me a few seconds to remind myself that this is a romance...*phew*) and even one or two secretly blinked-away stray tears. Movie in the head - music in the ears!

Great story, the playlist kept me busy (made one of my own...), loved it!

And I will continue reading....;-)
