



The Maiden of Ireland: A Medieval Romance (Women of War)

Susan Wiggs

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THE MAIDEN OF IRELAND

#1 New York Times bestselling author Susan Wiggs sweeps readers away to the misty coast of Ireland in this classic tale of falling in love with the enemy...

John Wesley Hawkins was condemned to hang, accused of treason and heresy. As he's transported to the scaffold at Tyburn, however, the Lord Protector steps in and offers him the hand of mercy—if Wesley agrees to travel to Ireland on a dangerous mission into the heart of the Irish resistance against English rule. He'll have to seduce the rebels' secrets from a headstrong Irishwoman, but that shouldn't be a problem for a man of Wesley's reputation....

Caitlin MacBride is mistress of the beleaguered Irish castle Clonmuir, and she makes no secret of her loyalty to her countrymen. She's determined to remain strong for her people, but a wish for true love one evening at sunset yields the one thing that may sway her resolve. When Wesley walks out of the mist that fateful night, Caitlin's faith in the magic of Ireland is briefly restored—until she discovers he's one of the treacherous Englishmen she has spent her life fighting against.

Originally published in 2014.

The Maiden of Ireland: A Medieval Romance (Women of War) Details

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Author : Susan Wiggs

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Susan says

I really did like this book. There were however a few things that disturbed me. I did not like the deceitfulness and how long it continued. He should have come clean once relationships had been formed. There is a sex scene.

Farrah says

A richly detailed, enjoyable historical romance, The Maiden of Ireland was a lovely read. I liked this book. I haven't read many romances set in Cromwell's era, especially not in Ireland, so it was new for me and I'm happy to say that I thought it was wonderful.

Caitlin was a great heroine. She was very strong and fiercely loyal to her people. Even under the difficult circumstances she found herself in, she didn't falter. She was frustratingly stubborn a couple of times, but nothing too bad. Overall, I really liked her.

Wesley was also wonderful. Like Caitlin, he was very loyal and the poor man had his loyalties torn between his daughter and the woman he loved. Lots of mental conflict there. He was very clever and crafty enough to get himself out of any situation. And, he was also a kind man who, despite the circumstances, was honorable. My only complaint was that, though I understood his reasons for keeping quiet, I wished that he would have told Caitlin about his daughter sooner. It would have saved a lot of heartache. But, otherwise, I really liked him as well.

The romance was very sweet. Caitlin and Wesley were so great together. Despite all the challenges in their way, they fell for each other and I thought it was sweet. And, they definitely had some sensuous heat between them. I thought they were a lovely couple.

The plot was okay. It went by rather slow. I never got disinterested, but, because of the pace, I was never fully hooked. Nonetheless, I was still kept interested the entire way through. I really enjoyed the story and the ending was great.

The Maiden of Ireland was a wonderful historical romance. I really liked it and enjoyed reading it. Romance lovers, this is a book you might want to check out.

*I received a complimentary copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review

Books Her says

Available August 26: The Maiden of Ireland

*****4/5 stars

This Irish-English tale has the makings of a saga.

Recommended readers:

If you like characters from opposing sides.
if you prefer a little more history in your typical romance.

Here's my Rankings:

4/5 for characters
4/5 for plot
4/5 overall
Note: 2/5 some steaminess

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Victoria says

6/10

Arshia says

I received a DRC from NetGalley for an honest review.

Susan Wiggs is a very prolific writer and I have loved her historicals in the past. The compelling story, the grandeur of the Irish country side, the injustice against the Catholics and Irish all made this a gripping novel. However, I hated the one of the main characters and for that reason alone I could not get lost in the story. John Wesley Hawkins was more villain than hero to me. He lied and deceived through out the whole novel. I understood his reason in the beginning but towards the end it was a paltry excuse. Also he claims to have fallen in love with Caitlin for intelligence, beauty, blah blah blah but if he actually thought her intelligent then he would at least make an effort to talk to her. He tries to deceive her at every turn, in the beginning he doesn't know her but after they are married he still continues. Any honorable man would tell his wife that her previous suitor was married (a man she had pinned her hopes on); at least give her a heads up instead of leading her to meet the man and shocking her. That scene was so petty and childish on his part, disgusting man! Also once they come back to her home he starts to take over her duties. I know men aren't easily led by women but at least try to show a united front. Wesley blurts out his suggestions to constantly undermine her leadership. What kind of love is this?! Everything had to be hidden from her because she can't deal with it. You little bitch she was providing for her people long before you came along!! And Caitlin, ah Caitlin, I loved you so. Such a strong vibrant character, I'm sorry only a dithering shell was left behind. Why did you never confront him? Where did your fierceness go?

Reforming says

Wanted to like it, but it didn't hook me.

Kate Vale says

I rarely read historical romances, but this was from one of my favorite authors and I gave it a try. THE MAIDEN OF IRELAND was originally released in 1993 as The Mist and the Magic. The revolves around an Irish lass, Caitlin MacBride, who is desperate to save castle Clonmuir and her people from the ravages of the British Lord Protector, Oliver Cromwell. He is just as desperate to put down the Irish rebellion and the people refusing to accede to his will. He sends John Wesley Hawkins, who has been condemned to hang for treason and heresy, and uses his own little daughter to force Wesley to bring him the head of the rebels' commander, who happens to be beautiful and strong-willed Caitlin.

Too bad for Cromwell, Wesley falls in love with her and decides to trick Cromwell into releasing his daughter and ceasing his attempts to crush the Irish. To do so, however, he has to keep his real intent from Caitlin and still protect her from Cromwell. How he does so makes for a swashbuckling action-packed story that finally (though not without mayhem first) ends well for all but a few. I won't name the ones who fail or lose THEIR lives so as not to ruin the story.

Lydia says

So the thing about romance novels is that I wouldn't ever recommend them to anyone, because it's really a personal choice whether or not you read them.

I read them because every once and a while I read something really critically and need a break, or if I can't sleep. I never buy them, I just borrow them from the library.

This book, as far as romance novels go (my god that cover is terrible) is actually pretty good. The characters a little more complex than I usually expect (despite the occasional sexist remark) and the plot was quite well-thought out.

Overall, Wiggs' novel was easy to read, and I'd consider her in my repertoire of authors I'd pick up when the time comes.

Like I said, I can't really recommend romance novels to anyone, but if it's your thing, and you can get past the clichés and the terrible artwork, it'll be in your local library somewhere. c:

Belinda says

The story is very intriguing, funny, and well written. I feel that the characters were human in their dealings with their surroundings. You have a man who was about to hang at Tyburn prison, then released by the Lord Protector. John Wesley Hawkins being ready to die for treason and heresy, got mercy from his deeds if he

would agree to help England. But John doesn't have much of a choice because his small daughter is being held to gain his submission. All John has to do is find out who is the main man in the Irish resistance. Therefore, John being a handsome and smart will seduce the secrets from a Irishwoman named Caitlin MacBride. She knows who is involved but John has his work cut out for him. But Caitlin is one smart lady who helps the rebels but won't trust any Englishman especially John. Caitlin is strong in her beliefs, but sometimes she wants to have what other females have. She's not beautiful like her sister who has a husband who loves her. Caitlin will find her true love, but what's at stake may be harder to deal with than she can bear. As a reader, I was totally taken with this book. Thanks Net Galley for letting me review this wonderful romance.

Kaza says

While the book was well written and engaging, I didn't particularly like Wesley. He was a bit too smarmy for my tastes. It was hard for me to like someone who had deliberately lured many women into bed. In a time when their chastity meant everything.

In contrast to the selfless life Caitlin lived for her people, it seemed especially selfish.

When considering whether I like a book or not, I have to like the main characters.

Laura Aase says

I love historical fiction, I hate historical fiction about Ireland filled with folklore and legends... couldn't get past the half way point and I usually love this author. She should stick with contemporary fiction!

Roseanne says

This book was different from many of the other historical romances out there today. The female lead is a headstrong, iron-willed woman who is trying to keep everyone under her care safe. Although there were times where I wondered where this book was going I will say that the second half of the book is better than the first half. It is very well written with well developed characters and the story line is decent. The main reason that I did not give this book 5 stars is that I don't see this as becoming a book that I go back and reread year after year.

Kimberly says

Great read with enjoyable characters

The first thing that caught my eye with this book was the cover art - I thought it was quite pretty but you can't base a book off a pretty or awful cover so curious I was. When I first began to read, I thought eh I don't know about this... then Caitlin and Wesley graced my pages and my fleeting thought changed. I loved them together even though Wesley had his own plans but for good reasons. He eventually begins to form

feelings which he never intended to do. I loved how he on numerous times tried to woo her which she doesn't give in - but almost does many times. But hey who could claim Cait, the man had such sweet words that left his lips an a smile that could melt butter. There were other great characters such as Tom Gandy whom was very likeable and mysterious at the same time, Rory was a bit of a hoot especially when him and Wesley were sizing up their manhood with one another during a bathroom run, and then the on going bickering from Logan and Magheen was a bit amusing too. I also liked how Susan managed to infuse some Irish dialog and Gaelic phrases in this book - it made the characters more real and lifelike.

Misfit says

"I would forfeit the very surety of my soul to be the man who brings that look upon your face."

fans self

The girl: Caitlin MacBride, struggling to keep her clan and her family castle together despite the efforts of Cromwell and his roundheads. She's told to pick a rose and make a wish just as the sun sets: *"Send me my true love"*, she asks. Do wishes come true?

The guy: John Wesley Hawkins. Within seconds of being hanged as a priest (long story - read the book), he's taken away by Cromwell's men and they threaten the life of his young daughter unless he goes to Ireland and discovers the leader of a notorious bank of outlaws. Wesley is left ashore near Clonmuir (Caitlin's home) and he rises from the sea just as Caitlin makes her wish...

Magic? You be the judge.

I loved this book, and wouldn't mind picking it up all over again. Plenty of adventure, derring-do, treachery, romance (fans self) and laugh out loud funny moments with the banter of Caitlin's clan members. Oh, and the banter between Wesley and Caitlin at that, let alone that sexual chemistry smoking off the pages.

"Look me in the eye, Caitlin MacBride, and tell me you've been kissed before."

A very nice blend of romance and historical setting, and that Cromwell sure was a mean 'un. This was originally published as *The Mist and the Magic* (I own a copy), but recently reissued by the publisher as *The Maiden of Ireland*, and I read a digital copy of the new issue obtained via library loan. I can't answer how much was or was not changed, since I didn't compare more than a few passages.

"Do you feel the magic?"

"Oh yes...I do."

So. Did. I.

Kimberly Rocha~ Book Obsessed Chicks says

3 1/2 Star Read

Desperate to save his baby daughter from Cromwell's clutches, the condemned, John Wesley Hawkins, agrees to seek out and bring to heel the leader of the Irish rebel faction, the Fianna. His only problem is, when he finds out the infamous rebel is an Irish beauty named Caitlin MacBride, and she is a strong woman with the weight of an entire clan of people on her shoulders.

Wesley arrives with the intentions of capturing the rebel and freeing his daughter from Cromwell, but all those intentions get sidetracked when he sees the injustices happening all around the MacBride and finds his attraction to their leader, Caitlin, distracting.

Caitlin MacBride is like no other female of her time. She knows her clan leader father has good intentions but is apparently scatterbrained, so she takes up the mantle of her people in making sure they are fed and clothed and safe from the invading English. Caitlin holds little regard and no trust in the English, but when she meets Wesley, her feelings begin to soften, until she finds he is a traitor and a liar. What happens in this epic tale will surprise you as it takes us from Ireland to England and back again.

THE MAIDEN OF IRELAND by Susan Wiggs is a action-packed tale of desire and deceit. Wesley and Caitlin are two strong characters fighting for their very lives and two character, unafraid of doing what it takes to get the results they need. I have not read many tales set in this time-period or in Ireland, but I found it to be a delightful and insightful story. It was a bit tedious at times, and I did set the book aside a few times and then go back to it later, and I am I did, because it truly has a great outcome.

~KIMBERLY~
