



## Oceans Between Us (A Cinderella Romance)

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**Oceans Between Us (A Cinderella Romance)** Helen Scott Taylor

He's a wealthy Italian celebrity used to dating beautiful women. She's a guesthouse cook without a penny to her name. When tragedy brings them together for a few weeks, an unlikely romance blossoms. But he has commitments that take him back to his jet-setting life, while her future lies in a remote English village. Is it possible for two people from such different walks of life to find a way to be together?

## Oceans Between Us (A Cinderella Romance) Details

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## **From Reader Review Oceans Between Us (A Cinderella Romance) for online ebook**

### **Lorraine says**

This a secular romance novella. The premise was cute: a well known, young, good looking, Italian opera singer meets nice looking B & B manager/cook when he is taking a break after a disappointment in his life. BUT two intimate scenes with TMI spoiled it for me. I also thought that Maria after her previous experience should never have let Dino stay because the B & B was closed for the season and she was redecorating and alone. I also didn't like the way that Maria's mother interfered with the life of her 24 year old daughter.

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### **Bev Pettersen says**

Oceans Between Us is a sweet and beautifully written love story. Maria prefers the safety of running her family guest home in a quiet English village, a stark contrast to the charismatic Dino who is a globe-trotting opera star. Their relationship begins when Dino is at his most vulnerable and Maria's caring nature shines through, so much so that I was cheering for them both even though they seem to want vastly different things. Yet they are perfect for each other and despite the many obstacles in their way including separate careers, fans, ex-lover, selfish manager, and distance itself, the author skillfully shows how love and compromise can conquer all. Thank you for the lovely read!

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### **Anna Marie says**

This was an utterly charming, beautifully descriptive book. And I wanted to give it five stars... but I couldn't quite do it.

Maria is the heroine. Which was my first problem. The book is about a British girl and an Italian man... but with the name Maria, the illusion was warped. Maria being an Italian name. It screwed things up the ENTIRE book. Marie? Yes. Mary? Even better. Maria, cara, is Italian... NOT British.

Anyhow, Maria is a homebody. Her family runs 'The Crow's Nest', an inn in Cornwall, and she loves to care for the guests, to cook from scratch, to look out over the water, to be a part of their little fishing village. She wants to marry and have her babies there, to raise them in the inn, put her delicious food in their little bellies. The problem is finding a husband. Her long-time boyfriend thru and after college doesn't want to hole up in a little English village - he wants to see the world, go to cities, have adventures. Maria doesn't need or want that.

Every fall her parents go on a cruise (after the inn closes for the season), and one day while she's there alone, a man comes to the door. He's a sopping mess, anguish on his face. Against her better judgment, she lets him in, cooks for him, cares for his things, and becomes his friend. What she doesn't know is that the man turns out to be a very handsome Italian - and not just that, he's a world-famous operatic tenor. His whole LIFE is traveling the world, singing on stages in every major city. But he seems so content to keep her quiet company, to walk the village and down the coast... she never would've expected it. And honestly, did she really think a few weeks together would go anywhere?

There are two other reasons I didn't five-star this (and it really was VERY close - I highly recommend it, and would read it again and again). Those things are niggly, though. First, the author couldn't just let it ride that she wasn't of the bent to travel. No... there had to be an assault from the last time she tried to go abroad with her ex-boyfriend. It felt like the author was purposely crippling her emotionally, when there was no need for that. And the other thing was Maria's lack of accent. Seriously, half the book I thought she had to be an adopted American living with Brits, because while her BIL and sister sounded British, Maria's dialogue/speech was so bland. Toss that in with the Italian name, and it really marred the gorgeous work of art this book wants to be.

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### **Prarthana Patel says**

I loved the story, but was disappointed that there was no info whatsoever about Dino's son.

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### **GW says**

Got this free on my kindle, and this was one of the cutest stories I've ever read. It's so adorable and romantic, and I love it. I don't know if you'd consider it a Cinderella Romance though, I mean there's no fairy god mother... There isn't really an evil step-mother either though, but there is an evil dude - if that counts?

This is a real quick read and page turner, and it'll leave you in awe. It's one of those stories that you'd read because you *know* there's bound to be a happy ending.

The only thing that I hoped was different was the main guy's name. It's Dino. I couldn't take the man seriously at first because of his name, but I really did love how the author put in that Italian aspect. Hmm, I've now learned what *cara* means!

Amazing book to read - anytime!

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### **Charlotte Abel says**

This beautiful love story kept me up all night. I was hooked from the very first scene to the last. The story opens with a rude awakening for Dino, an up and coming singing sensation. His greedy manager has forced Dino's ex-girlfriend to keep her pregnancy a secret and give their son up for adoption. When Dino finds out, it's too late. His son is gone. He flees to a quaint English village and meets Maria; a shy, gentle woman recovering from her own traumatic ordeal.

On the surface, Maria and Dino appear to be opposites. He's a famous, jetsetting singer, she's a reclusive homebody. But in their hearts, they both value and desire the same things. They must show great courage to overcome the many obstacles, both internal and external, that keep them oceans apart.

I loved the way Ms. Taylor brought each setting to life. I could smell Maria's home baked rolls, feel the warmth of the Italian sun and hear the music as Dino and Maria danced.

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## **Joan Reeves says**

### **Utterly Charming Hero**

I think it's safe to say that *Oceans Between Us* by Helen Scott Taylor is my favorite book yet from this author.

Ms. Taylor takes a Cinderella premise and peoples it with a hero who will win your heart just as he won the heart of heroine Maria Gardener. Dino Rossellini has the world at his feet yet he loses something so precious to him that it makes him question the life he has chosen.

Bereft and sad, he arrives one stormy night at the quaint inn where Maria lives with her parents who are away on holiday. Maria is drawn to him. Touched by his obvious distress, she can't turn him away even though the inn is closed for the winter.

Through the days that follow, her kindness touches Dino. They grow close, but there can be no future for these two who are from different worlds. Scarred by a traumatic event in her past, Maria only feels safe in her small community. Dino is a man whose passion in life requires him to be a public figure. How can these two mismatched lovers fit their lives together?

As if those serious obstacles aren't challenge enough, there are people in each of their lives who are determined to keep them apart. You'll adore this romance with a charming hero who has such generosity of spirit and so much love to give the right woman. You'll cheer Maria on and hope she realizes that sometimes you just have to take a risk and follow your heart.

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## **Maggie W says**

Predictable and cliché but cute and light.

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## **Sandy M says**

I'm a tad befuddled after reading the last two books by Helen Scott Taylor that I love the heroes, but the heroines have given me a hard time. Just an interesting observation on my end, because in her previous books, I also loved Ms. Taylor's female leads. While I like Maria and enjoy getting to know her, she does toss me into a fit late in the book, but honest heroine that she is, she fesses up and all ends well.

It's Dino, however, who wins my heart early. This handsome Italian opera singer is in the midst of an emotional upheaval, having just discovered his former fiancée gave their son up for adoption without obtaining Dino's permission. He tries his best, but he's told the deed is done, there is nothing he can do or say to get his son back, let alone to even see the boy. Heartbroken, he walks out on his manager, who was behind the tragic manipulation so Dino wouldn't be distracted from his very successful singing career, without a word and ends up in a small Cornwall village at a bed and breakfast that's closed for some remodeling.

Maria is alone at the Crow's Nest, doing all the repainting and other work needed for the upcoming season, while her parents are on vacation. When she answers a knock at her door to find a man so obviously in pain, she can't deny him sanctuary from the storm he's apparently spent some time in. Being the caring nurturer she is, Maria wants to help him through his hurt in any small way possible. As she does so, little by little Dino opens up to her, sharing his devastation and then his determined rejuvenation at Maria's hands. They share a blissful four weeks taking walks along the beach, dancing in the kitchen, just talking, and, of course, making love – though Dino tries to keep his distance in this respect, knowing he has to leave some day soon.

His commitments around the world will take him from England and Maria, not knowing if or when he'll be able to return. It's refreshing that she doesn't know him for the star he is – probably the only woman on the planet who doesn't. Though his manager is a selfish and greedy SOB, he has helped make Dino's super mega career. The man won't leave anything to chance, and when he learns Maria was a distraction for Dino during his absence, suddenly the woman who gave up Dino's son is back in the picture so Dino's focus is on his career and away from Maria. This is the only time I'm a little irritated with Dino. That manager gets too many chances, as far as I'm concerned. He should have been sacked when Dino finds out about his intervention with Rachel's pregnancy. But, of course, if that happened, the story would have ended much sooner. So the manager from hell gets to keep throwing wrenches in everyone's plans. The fact that Dino welcomes Rachel back into his life didn't sit well with me at first, but I can understand why he does it.

I also have a hard time liking Maria's parents. Once back from their holiday, they sit Maria down and pull the rug right out from under her by selling the Crow's Nest instead of retiring and allowing Maria to take over the place. She has no money saved, worked not for wages but room and board and incidentals, her future plans resting on the inn. Then when mama finds out about Dino, she takes matters into her own hands trying to protect her daughter. And then they won't fund Maria's trip to the United States when she discovers Dino does have feelings for her. I wanted to shake my finger at them and give them a good talkin' to! It's Chris, Maria's sister, who comes to the rescue and they make the trip over the pond to see Dino at the Met. Of course, things don't go as planned and Maria returns home broken hearted once again.

But when Dino finally takes control of his life again and gets back to Maria to take her with him for his mother's fiftieth birthday family get-together, she initially reverts back to that girl who is now afraid to travel because of an incident that happened in Austria with an old boyfriend. She overcomes her fear this time because it involves Dino's family. However, once they have a terrific time in Italy and Dino shares his feelings with her, this is where, though she professes her love for him as well, she refuses to travel to America where he'll be making a movie. She wants him to give up his dream for hers. Now, it doesn't take long for her to realize how wrong she is – which is a breath of fresh air over those 50 or more pages it takes most heroines to do this – so my irritation with her is short lived.

All in all, this is one of those lovely happiness from tragedy, love when you least expect it stories. Well, with a mild dose of wake up and smell the coffee too. I thoroughly enjoyed Dino and his zest for living, his love of family, and his need to sing. Their brief affair in the first half of the book is my favorite part, along with their time in Italy in the second half. I can just see that small fishing village in Cornwall and Riomaggiore on the Italian Riviera from Ms. Taylor's beautiful descriptions. This is the type of book to snuggle up on the couch with on a slow Saturday afternoon to lose yourself in heartbreak, romance, and happily ever after.

See my complete review at <http://www.goodbadandunread.com>

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## Emily says

Maria is very much a Mary Sue, sometimes so much so its hard to swallow. I understand the desire to have a family to love and care for but it almost seems like shes pining to be a servant. "...oh no dont make me come travel with you the world is too scary for that! Just let me stay here and cook and clean for you!" (she didnt ACTUALLY say this but its as good as at times...)

...also the fact that she could use Google and Amazon with ease but hadnt a clue about how to find 60's music or burn a CD was kinda odd to me.

However... over all I enjoyed the read and would recomend it to anyone looking for some light romance.

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## MountainKat says

\*3.5 Stars\*

This was a sweet story. It got a little melodramatic at points, but still enjoyable. I liked the characters and wanted the best for them. This was my first by this author and thought it was nice. There was not a lot of heat, so don't read it if that is a requirement.

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## Sarika Patkotwar says

After reading Helen Scott Taylor's Unbreak My Heart, I was really looking forward to reading her next contemporary romance novel, Oceans Between Us, which I received as a gift from the author for having reviewed Unbreak My Heart.

Oceans Between Us is a beautiful story of Maria Gardener, a complete girl-next-door and Dino Rossellini, an Italian Opera singer. The beginning of the story was very heart- breaking, as Dino's son is adopted without him being aware of it. It leaves him devastated and he moves to Porthale to find some peace and solace. That is where he comes across Crow's Nest, a warm and homely guest house that belongs to the Gardeners. Maria is so keen on taking care of Dino and making his stay as pleasant as possible. It was very touching to read how much one can care for a someone you don't even know. I don't want to get much into the storyline as I know I'll end up with tons of spoilers! So I will just stick to the tons of other amazing aspects of the book. I absolutely loved Maria. She was so easy to relate to. Nowadays, most of the leading female protagonists are kick- ass and daring (which is awesome, no doubt), while Maria was so gentle, caring and wonderful. Her simplicity made her so much more desirable and admirable. Dino too was such a great guy. Not just his hot Italian looks, but even as a person, he was simple, down-to-earth and a real sweetheart! Both Maria's and Dino's families- who played such an important role in the story- were splendid and it was so much of fun to read about them. The relationship between Maria and her sister, Christine was so lovely, and so was the one between Dino and his mom. The Italians made such a fantastic family, and were heart- warming to read about. The few secondary characters also made the story more lively, practical and joyous! I loved that both Maria and Dino value their families, and have immense respect for them too.

My most favorite and treasured part of the story was when Maria and Dino are just roaming in Porthale, which is where they have their first kiss. That was absolutely remarkable!

Overall, an absolutely sweet, realistic and marvelous read, Oceans Between Us is just the perfect book. I took my own sweet time reading this one as I didn't want it to get over! I literally moved at a snail's pace, but I was so excited to move ahead that I was compelled to turn the pages...

Thank you Helen Scott Taylor for being so kind to gift a copy of your book, and for just writing this beautiful story! It is definitely worth a million bucks. :)

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## **Debbie says**

### **Sweet, innocent love story**

This was a sweet story in which the mysterious man shows up at the quiet little inn.....of course, he is handsome and the young innkeeper, Maria, is smitten.

I did like the fact that in the story, Maria did not know who Dino was even though he was famous. He does not try to make it known who he is as he is trying to recover from some devastating news given him by his manager. We see, in the story, how a manager of a famous person can be reduced to doing anything to keep their client in the spotlight...keep them where they want them without interference from a personal life.

The story might not be totally realistic yet it is one of a chance happening...one of which romances are made. Love conquers all in this story...

It does make one wonder if those "famous" people can escape their spotlight and have a chance to meet real people? Can they have that opportunity to meet real people with whom a life could develop? Is it possible for someone not in a glitz and glamour of stardom to survive with a famous person who lives for that glory?

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## **Stephanie Burkhart says**

Scott-Taylor pens an endearing romance with "Oceans Between Us." Dino Rossellini is a world famous singer who retreats to the town of Porthale, Cornwall to reevaluate his life. Maria Gardener is quite content with her world, running the quaint guesthouse, the Crow's Nest. When Dino asks for shelter, Maria's heart immediately goes out to him. Dare Dino and Maria bridge the ocean between their lives to find happiness?

Set in contemporary Europe, Dino and Maria live very separate careers, yet Dino is attracted to the steadfast Maria. She's everything he wants in a woman. Maria, however, is reluctant to see the world and he has an international lifestyle. Dino spends a month in Cornwall, but must leave to fulfill his contractual obligations. Can love bring them together or will real life obstacles drive them apart?

Scott-Taylor's romantic setting and easy writing style stirs the reader's heartstrings. I'm a sucker for a great international romantic setting and Scott-Taylor has a way of making the reader feel like they're residents of the locales in the novel. For me, the characterization was the best part. Dino and Maria are delightfully human, each struggling with their own problems, yet are willing to believe in the hope that love offers.

The love scenes are tasteful and embody the sensuality of the couple. "Oceans Between us" will have you believing in the power of love. I highly recommend this delightful story.

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## **Mitzi says**

Free Kindle book June 13, 2012.

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