



Winter Bloom

Tara Heavey

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In the heart of bustling modern Dublin is a littered, overgrown garden of tangled weeds and a stagnant, hidden pond. Belonging to an iron-willed elderly lady named Mrs. Prendergast, who is rumored to have murdered and buried her husband there, the garden draws Eva Madigan, a young mother struggling to move on from the pain of her past. Eva is joined by Emily, a beautiful but withdrawn college dropout; Uri, an old-world immigrant; Seth, his all-too-handsome son; and occasionally even Mrs. Prendergast herself. But what drives Eva to transform the neglected urban wilderness? What makes the others want to help her? Even as Mrs. Prendergast puts the land up for sale, the thorny lives of all the gardeners are revealed and slowly start to untangle. Overgrown secrets are dug up and shared. Choices are made; a little pruning is in order. Now Eva is about to discover that every garden is a story of growth toward a final harvest.

Winter Bloom Details

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Author : Tara Heavey

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From Reader Review Winter Bloom for online ebook

🌀Amy🌛🌝🌜 says

I could not put this book down!!!! I give it 4.5 ?. It is absolutely stunning! It will rip every emotion from your being so be prepared!!! ???

Suburbangardener says

"You know, this is great for me," he said.

"What is?" She stiffened.

"Witnessing a conversion."

"A conversion?" She straightened up and chanced looking over.

"Yes. To plants. Gardening."

"Oh." She smiled. Relaxed. "You make it sound like a religious experience."

"Isn't that what it is? A return to your basic nature. It's my religion anyway." He commenced digging.

How could I not like a book about the healing power of gardens? Each character in "Winter Bloom" has suffered a great tragedy. Together, they restore a garden and restore their lives. One character even says that gardening saved his life. Despite the sad aspects, this is a book about hope and second chances, which left me smiling.

Jellicle says

Unique and quirky characters are brought together by their desire to restore a lost garden belonging to a crotchety old woman. One by one the individual stories are revealed and as the garden comes back to life, the characters find healing, hope, love and even redemption. Tara Heavey is a worthy successor to the late Maeve Binchy with a younger slightly more modern voice.

Virginia Campbell says

Just as the garden of "Winter Bloom" is lovingly and skillfully brought back to life, so are the lives of the characters revived and renewed. Tara Heavey tells the story of five people who work together toward a common goal and discover much about themselves and each other along the way. When young widowed mother Eva Madigan spies the sadly neglected walled garden of the elderly Mrs. Prendergast, she is struck by the desire to restore the wasted space to its former glory. It takes some convincing, and Mrs. Prendergast warns her that the garden is meant to be sold, but Eva is given permission for her project. She places an ad at the grocer for help with a community garden, and only two people respond to the ad: Uri, a distinguished older gentleman, and Emily, the clerk from the grocer. Soon they are joined by Uri's son Seth, and after a time, even Mrs. Prendergast begins to help with the work. Each of the gardeners has been touched by tragedy, and their individual stories are woven throughout the telling of the restoration. Uri, a tailor by trade, was taught much by his own father, who was a master gardener. Seth, who inherited his love of cultivating

the soil from his father and grandfather, has his own landscaping business. Emily, stuck in her clerk's job, longs to further her education and move on with her life. Mrs. Prendergast, a lady of impeccable social grace, is nonetheless rumored to have killed her husband and buried him somewhere in the garden. It is her greedy, needy son, Lance, who is pressuring her to sell the land. Eva's husband took their baby daughter for a drive to settle her crying, and they were both killed in a terrible accident. Eva was left to care for their young son, Liam, and to manage her survivor guilt. These are remarkable people, trying their best to live "ordinary" lives. I was touched by their heartaches, and I celebrated with them their joys. Their shared experience was an affirmation of life, not only for the characters, but also for the reader. I will definitely read more work by the wonderful storyteller, Tara Heavey!

Review Copy Gratis Simon & Schuster

DAISY DISNEY says

Winter Bloom is a very touching story. It was elegantly written. I adored all of the characters' stories & how they all came together for the garden's sake. In doing so, they each earned a new loving family within one another. The most powerful story to me that actually made me cry was Eva's. What she went through must have been devastating. I really loved how the author wrote this. It was beautifully written. I highly recommend this as a must read. It was the perfect genre for this Christmas season too. I just loved Winter Bloom!

Maria says

What I Can Tell You:

This was a fantastic book. Tara Heavey did an excellent job on character development and storyline. In this moving story of hardship, friendship, past mistakes, haunting childhoods and courage and determination. The character of Eva was my favorite. She has suffered loss and through her determination and courage she undertakes a project that brings the most different people together. Creating a small community of misfits and personalities. From the first paragraph you are invested. The cover does nothing for the book as it appears very light but with the loss of a child, the Holocaust, hidden pregnancy this book is far from light. It is more a winding path through life's hardships toward renewal and growth.

Fantastic book and I give it a 5.

Sheri says

five people come together to create a beautiful garden and along the way they share their secrets.a book to get lost in.

Roneice says

Recommended as an 'If you liked Maeve Binchy, you will enjoy this book!' When reading it, I did think

Maeve was telling the story. Same style; same tone. So, I agree with the earlier message..if you like Maeve Binchy, who sadly is no longer with us, give this book a try.

Jo (Bloomin'Chick) says

Top read of 2010 for me. Beautifully and brilliantly written, enchanted me right from the start. As I neared the end, I didn't want it to end. Touched on several subjects close to my heart and on area's I didn't expect. Inspirational and truly heart warming. A definite re-read in the future.

Ingrid Verschelling says

De Ierse tuin van Tara Heavey is een heerlijk boek om te lezen. Je moet wel houden van tuinieren en dat doe ik. Sinds dit jaar zijn we ook een moestuintje begonnen, dus ik kon mij helemaal vinden in de verwondering voor de tuin. Als je nog niet aan tuinieren doet, krijg wel zin om daar mee te beginnen. De karakters zijn allemaal heel sympathiek. Ze zijn allen verbonden door de tuin en je leert ze stukje bij beetje kennen. Een aanrader, wat mij betreft!

Carla Ford says

This book is absolutely on my short list of the year's best! As five people come together to transform an overgrown garden, they each bring their pasts, their pain, and their hopes for the future. Eva - single with a son to raise, Emily, struggling with her solitary secret, Uri and Seth, father and son, each with his own painful past, and finally Mrs. Pendergast, the aging widow who owns the garden. As Eva begins the project, hoping to interest others, she is trying to make peace with her move to Ireland, and her decision to raise her son on her own, without even the help of her family. As the volunteers assemble, each throws himself into his or her own section of the garden. With time, they begin to feel comfortable enough with each other to entrust bits and pieces of themselves, and a bond begins to form. Over the spring, summer and into the fall, these five people give new life to the garden, and in the process, themselves. Moving through the seasons with them, I was entranced, and felt a part of the joy of watching the garden take shape. I highly recommend this book as a joyous and uplifting tale!"

Briana says

What a beautifully written novel! Heavey uses brilliant, flowery language but the novel doesn't come off as difficult or hard to understand and is, in fact, quite an easy, quick read.

I like how Heavey arranged the stories of all the main characters. Given in snippets instead of in one fell swoop really added to character and story development.

She didn't shy away from difficult topics and the book, at times, was heartbreakingly read. This served to make the novel that much more satisfying as the characters grew and came to terms with their lives. It was lovely to have their transformations mirrored in the metaphor of the garden springing to life after all the hard

work.

Danielle says

Eva Madigan has suffered a great tragedy. For more reasons than most she struggles every day to move forward and often her only motivation rests with her young son Liam. With not much to push her forward, when Eva happens upon an abandoned “secret garden” her heart warms at the idea of a blossoming paradise in the midst of a bustling city. With the addition of a few helpers, Seth, Uri, Emily and Mrs. Prendergast, Eva begins again. Each person that helps with the garden holds a secret past, and as the story evolves the garden becomes a symbol of the change that each must go through to overcome and triumph.

This was truly a delightful story. It's been some time since I finished it, but even now I often find myself thinking of the stories behind each of these wonderful characters. I've actually tried singling out a favorite character from the story and it seems almost impossible. Eva-the single mother, Seth-the single recently divorced father, Emily-the college student with a troubled past, Uri-a mild mannered elderly man, and Mrs. Prendergast-the garden owner each hold their own in this dynamic novel. Throughout the story you get to hear from the majority of the characters, learn about their individual pasts and eventually how they help each other, along with the help of the garden to overcome their struggles.

It's also quite difficult to discuss Winter Bloom without giving away too much of the story. Heavey weaves each of the characters so tightly into the story that it's not until nearly half way through the book that you know many of their individual troubles. It's quite wonderful though, because though you don't know their concerns to begin with you are still able to connect with each because the writing is so good. This was actually my first novel by Tara Heavey and I'm eager to check out her British Chick Lit books because of it.

For me, I obviously connected the most with Eva's character. A single mother with a young child about the same age as my own son. Her concerns about him when he's no where in site is something I struggle with constantly. Not only that, but her extreme situation is something I've long feared. Though I've never (and don't plan to) had an affair and my husband and children are still living (thankfully), it's difficult to care for people so much that you don't allow it to consume you. I could truly connect with her concerns about losing her only remaining family member. It was an interesting process to see how she handled the circumstances surrounding the loss of her husband. As was the process that Emily went through in coming to terms with her parents and the truth of her own situation.

As I said, Winter Bloom is a difficult book to discuss without giving too much of it away or rambling on for pages. Beautifully written, I have no doubt that within the first few pages whomever reads it will be consumed by the stories of the individual characters as well as the ultimate outcome of their beloved garden. A story about change, triumphing over your past and letting go of those things that stand in our way. A beautiful story that will move many to possibly evaluate their own relationships and possibly start a garden of their very own.

Stephanie says

Don't let the cover of this book fool you, it is not the light beach read it appears to be. I enjoyed it very much and all of the stories of the main characters were interesting and not predictable at all. Definitely recommend.

Kerry Stewart says

Thank you for this book Daisy. I really enjoyed it as I love books the revolve around unlikely friendships! A beautifully written book.
