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Irish Meadows (Courage To Dream Book #1)



Synopsis

1911, Long Island, New York Faced With an Uncertain Future, Sometimes All You Have Left Is the Courage to Dream Brianna and Colleen O'Leary know their Irish immigrant father expects them to marry well. Recently he's put even more pressure on them, insinuating that the very future of their Long Island horse farm, Irish Meadows, rests in their ability to land prosperous husbands. Both girls, however, have different visions for their futures. Brianna, a quiet girl with a quick mind, dreams of attending college. Vivacious Colleen, meanwhile, is happy to marry--as long as her father's choice meets her exacting standards of the ideal groom. When former stable hand Gilbert Whelan returns from business school and distant relative Rylan Montgomery visits Long Island during his seminary training, the two men quickly complicate everyone's plans. As the farm slips ever closer to ruin, James O'Leary grows more desperate. It will take every ounce of courage for both sisters to avoid being pawns in their father's machinations and instead follow their hearts. And even if they do, will they inevitably find their dreams too distant to reach?

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Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed all the characters in this story who were described so well and whose lives intertwined. I enjoyed the setting and time period of the story. Having toured Ireland last year and enjoying the people and beautiful green scenery, I enjoyed going back there briefly in the story. Well written, great interweaving of faith, highly recommend it.

I enjoyed this book. I definitely liked Brianna more at the beginning but loved the growth Colleen goes through. It was interesting to see how they overcame a lot of problems. At first I could totally understand how Brianna was in love with Gil, but I got annoyed with both of them at different points. I got especially annoyed with Gil a few times. But it's a HEA and a good overall read. It got dragged out a Vt much in my opinion but was a good light read nonetheless.

Loved the characters in this story. I could see a true father trying to make the best match for his girls ignoring the obvious that you can't force feelings. You can't force love. Faith filled knowing our Heavenly Father wants what is truly Blessed for us.

The book started out great. However, I was very disappointed with the ending. It was obviously that the author did not have first hand experience with Catholic preparation for the priesthood. How the author fixed the problem of a seminarian falling in love and leaving the seminary left much to be desired! In fact both romances were just neatly tied up so the book could come to an end.

A great look at the times and challenges. An incredible look at how each individual is formed and changed by their conceptions of themselves and others. How each of us responds to the circumstances of our lives and how we let those things make or break us. Great read, characters real and personable.

Very well written. I felt like I was drawn into the story. The characters were believable and the description of the countryside made me wish I was there, but not during the era when women were treated as property instead of human beings.

I enjoyed this book and am looking forward to reading the second book in the series. I enjoyed the faith of some of the characters and hearing about the struggles that other characters were having with their faith. I was expecting it to be more predictable concerning the romance part so it was a

pleasant surprise to not have things work out quickly and easily.

At various times different characters refer to God having a sense of humor, and usually at their expense. Faith in God is woven throughout the story. Also the Irish history and humor. Quite a delightful read.

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