



The Wedding Journey

Cheryl St. John

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The mysterious inheritance is the answer to a prayer. Now Irish lass Maeve Murphy and her sisters can come to America! She's sure happiness awaits her, even if it won't—can't—come from widowed ship doctor Flynn Gallagher. Yes, he made her his assistant, but she's not foolish enough to fall for the man all the eligible, wealthy female passengers admire.

Flynn Gallagher may have his pick of ladies, but only one cares as he does for the sick and poor. Flynn vowed never to marry another woman who could break his heart. With Maeve, has his heart found safe harbor at last?

The Wedding Journey Details

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From Reader Review The Wedding Journey for online ebook

Virginia Campbell says

Cheryl St. John is a wonderfully talented author of memorable historical romance reads, and she has created a remarkable love story called "The Wedding Journey". This book is the beginning of the "Irish Brides Series" from Harlequin's Love Inspired Historical brand. I love reading historical romance for many reasons, all of which are to be found in "The Wedding Journey". I have always lived in historical romance. I just "reside" in the modern world. From as far back as I can remember, I was always drawn to times of old, ladies and gentlemen from another era, and clothing and customs from days gone by. My mother and I always lived with her parents, and I grew up with values from an older generation. I was also lucky enough to hear stories passed on from several generations, play dress-up in wonderful clothing from different decades, and be taught manners and behavior from a more courtly society. "The Wedding Journey" is the first story of the three Murphy sisters, Maeve, Nora, and Bridget, who are grieving the loss of their father, and wondering how they will make ends meet. An unexpected windfall comes in the form of an inheritance from a man who once loved their mother. He had purchased a home outside Boston, MA, and left it as a place for their mother to live should she ever come to America. Their mother had died a decade ago, and now without both parents, the sisters decide to leave Ireland and cross the ocean to the land of possibilities. They determine to find temporary employment on the voyage to their new home, and Maeve becomes the assistant to the handsome ship's doctor, Flynn Gallagher, who is a widower. Flynn is as Irish as the Murphys, but he comes from a background of wealth and privilege far removed from the humble origins of the sisters. Nonetheless, he is captivated by the sincerity and innocent charm of the lovely Maeve Murphy. Petite, red-haired, and blessed with a fresh complexion and sparkling blue eyes, Maeve stirs feelings in Flynn's grief-stricken heart. His deep sorrow at the loss of his wife and young son to cholera had left him emotionally scarred and driven him to seek advancements in the prevention and treatment of disease, allowing him little time for personal considerations. His admiration for the genuine warmth and care for others possessed by Maeve and her sisters helps him to begin to communicate more with others and to find enjoyment in the simple everyday pleasures of life. The jumble of passengers on this voyage are headed across the sea for a wide variety of reasons, and many of them will find their lives changed by the crossing. The author has written an amazing and involving story line, with the ship itself being a "world within a world". I was fascinated by the travel necessities of the times, and how people had to adapt for survival on this type of ship voyage. My eyes were also opened to the devastation of the Irish people due to disease and the potato famine. Beginning in 1845 and lasting for six years, the potato famine killed over a million men, women and children in Ireland and caused another million to flee the country. Small wonder that the promise of the land of milk and honey that was America in the mid to late 1800's drew people from far and wide, and that their dreams and emotions were quite intense. "The Wedding Journey" is indeed the journey of a lifetime, where hearts are revealed and hope is reaffirmed. Highly recommended for lovers of great historical romance.

Review Copy Gratis Author

Vickie McDonough says

The Wedding Journey is a charming story about a kindhearted woman whose life changes in an instant when she rushes to aid an injured boy. I look forward to reading about Maeve's two sisters and their journey from Ireland to America.

Catherine Richmond says

Famine, disease, and poverty have swept Ireland. The death of her father, leaves Maeve and her sisters without resources. Packing to leave their rented home, they find the deed to a house in Massachusetts and decide to head for the US. When Maeve helps an injured child at the dock, she draws the attention of Flynn Gallagher, the ship's doctor. He enlists her as his assistant for the voyage. She's attracted to his compassion and medical knowledge, and his Pierce Brosnan-good looks, but knows a romance can never be - he's upper class and she's lower.

Many Irish, including my ancestors, immigrated to the US. I knew tight quarters and poor rations onboard encouraged disease and death - necessitating health inspections on arrival. But I didn't know about the campaign to improve conditions. Author Cheryl St. John shows life aboard an immigrant vessel, including fascinating details of injuries and medical care. I loved this shipboard community and was almost as sad as Maeve when the end of the voyage approached.

Angie says

This was such an uplifting story! Without giving too much away, it begins with three sisters and is the story of how they must deal with the tragedy of losing their father and what becomes of them as they are now on their own with no place to live and no one to take care of them. Circumstances end up with them finding themselves on a journey from Ireland to America with hopes of starting a new life. Onboard the ship, one of the sisters shows her compassion and medical knowledge to an injured orphan and consequently becomes an assistant to the doctor. They develop a very strong friendship and relationship as the story tells the many trials and tribulations they go through along the journey. God and prayer are a huge part of this book and remind us all what the power of prayer can do. Would definitely recommend this to anyone looking for inspiration and a little hope in their lives!!

Susan says

This was a very good book. Maeve and her sisters are headed to America, escaping the poverty and disease in Ireland. Thanks to her quick thinking during a dockside emergency, Maeve ends up as the doctor's assistant. He helps her sisters secure other positions on the ship. Maeve is a sweet, optimistic young woman who has a gift for healing. Flynn has spent the last several years working as a ship's doctor and running away from the memories of his wife and son. Working with Maeve, she opens his eyes to what he has been doing, and he starts to feel again. I really enjoyed seeing the various people on the ship - the sisters, the captain and his wife, their friends and even the mean girl. All of the characters were very real as I read the book. I'm looking forward to the next one.

Fay Risner says

I really enjoyed this story about life on a sailing ship transporting Irish passengers to America during the

Irish Potato famine. The focus was on one of three pretty Irish sisters looking forward to a new life near Boston. Each was hired to work during the trip for passengers that had money. The focus is on a romance between one sister that is assistant to the ship doctor.

Dawn says

Maeve and her sisters leave Ireland after the death of their father. They manage to find passage onto a ship heading to Boston. Each sister ends up with a job thanks to the doctor. Maeve works for the doctor, Bridget works as a governess, and Nora assists in the ship's galley. As the journey continues, Maeve and Flynn (the doctor) grow closer to each other. When he's finally able to put the deaths of his wife and son behind him, is he ready to face a future with Maeve? And what about her other sisters?

This is the first of a 3-part series. Maeve is gentle at times but hasn't figured out how to think before she speaks. I have that same problem. Flynn wrestles with his grief and is afraid to let anyone get close. I've also been there. Overall I enjoyed this book very much. I can't wait to read Bridget and Nora's stories.

Sheri says

Cheryl St. John writes sweet inspirational romance. She does a great job putting the reader in the historical setting and making the characters real. Maeve was especially real, both in appearance and character.

Fedora says

First in the Irish Brides trilogy, following three sisters as they journey to America to escape the famine in Ireland.

A lovely read, with likeable characters and reminders of hope and the power of faith and love.

Linda Sims says

, this story is set in 1850, Maeve Murphy and her two sisters have just buried their father having lost their mother some time before. The landowner wants them off the land and the cottage where they live. Set at a time in history during the Irish famine the three girls decide to sell whatever possessions they have and buy passage to America, they had found a letter and deeds to a cottage just outside Boston, that a past love interest had left their mother, after he had moved to America many years previously

While waiting to board the ship a small boy is badly injured, Maeve immediately comes forward to help the child, back home she was the villager's go to person if you were ill or hurt. When the ship's doctor arrives he's so impressed with her treatment of the boy, he offers her a job as his assistant on the voyage. Dr. Flynn Gallagher is a widower and unlike Maeve and her sisters he's from a very wealthy family. He offers to find jobs onboard ship for Maeve's sisters as well. It very soon becomes apparent that the single women on the ship soon see Flynn as husband material. Maeve feels positively dowdy next to the other women, but Flynn seems more drawn towards her, than the others vying for his attention.

The whole story is set onboard a ship travelling from Ireland to America. While the author had obviously done her research as to what life onboard a ship in 1850 was like, it did seem like an idealistic view, I'm sure conditions were much worse than are portrayed here. The characters are very engaging and easy to relate to as well. I would have liked a bit more chemistry between Maeve and Flynn. There is a slight religious tone to the story but it fitted in with the characters personalities and backgrounds. Overall this story was charming.

Paula-O says

I received this book in PDF file from the author Cheryl St John, I loved reading "The Wedding Journey". this story is about three young ladies from Ireland. Maeve-Nora & Bridget, a sad beginning where the girls lose their "Da" and he is buried reminding them of the time when they lost their Mother years ago. Soon the landlord explains they must leave the only home they have known so his family can move in.

The girls start cleaning and putting items they will take with them not knowing where they will go or what they will do. In the midst of this they find a picture with letter and deed to a home in America that someone named Laird O'Mallery had sent to their mother many years ago begging her to come to him.

Now they had a plan, they would travel to America and see if this home was still there. It takes all they have to come up with monies to travel on this journey. Soon they are on the docks looking for the ship "Annie McGee".

there is much confusion on docks and soon a incident where a donkey and cart rears up when it is mishandled and a child is found wounded laying underneath, Maeve runs to help instantly and saves the child's life by stopping the flow of blood with a make-shift tourniquet. the Dr of the ship is much impressed and offers her a job as his assistant. She is reluctant to take it at first but when her sisters help her to remember they will need monies when they get to america to live on, she accepts. The good dr also tells her sister of jobs they can do and they are most grateful, one a governess and the other to help in galley.

The young boy has two brothers and they two are soon put to jobs on ship and life is better then they have ever had. The long journey forges many friendships among the passengers, there are births and deaths before the journeys end.

You will like to read how this story unfolds for the good doctor and his assistant along with some of the other passengers. I did....

Deb says

I received a copy of The Wedding Journey through Goodreads as a first-read.

The three Murphy sisters have no option but to find a new home following the death of their father. With the Ireland people impoverished by the potato famine and aristocratic landlords without a conscience, the sisters embark on a ship for America. After finding a letter to their late mother and a deed to a house in America hidden behind a painting, they once again are given the hope they had been praying for.

When a young boy is gravely injured following an episode instigated by the assistant of the ship's doctor, Maeve Murphy actions instinctively and saves the boy's life when the assistant can't be bothered with a hurt street urchin and walks away. Doctor Flynn Gallagher, upon hearing what happened, fires his assistant and hires Maeve. Having spent all but a tiny amount of their money on passage, Maeve's sisters are thrilled to have a source of income aboard ship.

As time passes and they work closely together, Flynn realizes he has finally found a woman who shares his passion for healing and genuinely cares for others. But can Flynn move past the loss of his wife and young son to a devastating illness? And can he convince Maeve that she is his future?

While reading this book, I found myself taking my time - simply because I didn't want it to end! I have read several novels by Cheryl St. John previously, and I have enjoyed each and every one of them. This one was no exception! I look forward to the remaining books in the series, and will read each and every one.

Donna says

As usual Cheryl St.John has crafted another keeper. Great characters that are warm, caring and totally believable. Wonderful details are woven in about life aboard an immigrant ship and the devastation of the potato famine in Ireland. The Murphy sisters are forced to leave the only home they've ever known when their Dad dies. After the funeral, when they are packing to leave, they find a letter addressed to their Mother and a deed to a home in America. With no money and no opportunities for jobs, the three sisters decide to spend the last of their money on passage to America. The people and conditions they encounter on their trip are a wonderful cross-section of humanity, both the good and the bad. The heroine Maeve's journey is heart warming and wonderful. This book is definitely going on my keeper shelf.

Dakota says

not bad, made me want to read the next books just to see what happens in the series. I would label it as Christian or Inspirational fiction to warn those who don't like that, and there are a lot of references to that. I like the characters and I thought the story was well laid out. It doesn't center on the romance though more of the journey itself with a romance in between.

Michelle Robinson says

This is not a bad little novel.

It isn't really a romance in the sense that while we see the hero and heroine spend time together and share work, they don't seem to be really developing a love relationship. There is a little mild flirtation and they do admire each other but it just does not feel like they are in love.

At one point, Maeve seems more like a grief counselor to Flynn than anything else.

Maeve deals with her troubles so easily, she is so patient and understanding that she does not quite feel like a real woman.

This is an inspirational novel and references to God (Christian version) are liberally interspersed throughout the book, so if some find that offensive this is not a title for them.

The characters don't have much depth, which is to be expected I imagine since there so many people in such a limited number of pages. They all end up being very friendly and close with each other, which is sweet but a little hard to take if one likes more realism in their romance reading.

I would like to know the answer to the little mystery but we are not given the answer. I did spend some time trying to figure it out.

I will read the next in the series just because I want to know about the baby and I would like to know if Mrs. Fitzwilliam was really seeing her granddaughter onboard the ship.

THis is not a bad read, I just kept waiting for the romance to develop between the hero and heroine, for me it never really happened.

Yes at the end we are told they are in love, they marry but I honestly don't feel that I read a romance at all. This isn't a bad novel just not what I hope for when reading Cheryl St. John.

She wrote one of my favorite romance novels ever, "The Secondhand Bride", in that novel we spend more time with the main characters and get to watch that relationship develop. We understand why they love each other. THat is my standard for this author and unfortunately, this book does not live up to that.
