



A Turn for the Bad

Sheila Connolly

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The New York Times bestselling author of *An Early Wake* returns to Ireland where Sullivan's Pub owner Maura Donovan gets mixed up with smugglers.

After calling Ireland home for six months, Boston expat Maura Donovan still has a lot to learn about Irish ways—and Sullivan's Pub is her classroom. Maura didn't only inherit a business, she inherited a tight-knit community. And when a tragedy strikes, it's the talk of the pub. A local farmer, out for a stroll on the beach with his young son, has mysteriously disappeared. Did he drown? Kill himself? The child can say only that he saw a boat.

Everyone from the local gardai to the Coast Guard is scouring the Cork coast, but when a body is finally brought ashore, it's the wrong man. An accidental drowning or something more sinister? Trusting the words of the boy and listening to the suspicions of her employee Mick that the missing farmer might have run afoul of smugglers, Maura decides to investigate the deserted coves and isolated inlets for herself. But this time she may be getting in over her head...

A Turn for the Bad Details

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From Reader Review A Turn for the Bad for online ebook

The Flooze says

2.5

I'm still lukewarm on this series. There was a lot of repetition while Maura figured out what was going on:
Person 1 - There's smuggling in Cork.

Person 2 - Smuggling has been known to happen off the shores of Cork.

Person 3 - I've been involved in some smuggling here in Cork.

Person 4 - The gardá are investigating possible smuggling. Nearby. Off the shores. Of CORK.

Maura - Billy! Does smuggling ever happen here? In Cork? It does?! WHAT. Mick, Persons 1-5 told me about...smuggling. Have you ever heard about that? You have?! I don't know if I believe this. Let me ask four more people.

For heaven's sake.

Once the whole story comes out, things pick up, but I doubt many people would have the patience necessary to sift through all the filler.

Also, for a woman who's lived in Ireland for as many months as she has, it's ridiculous that she has no idea how to work her stove, has no clue where her firewood and peat are kept, doesn't know what's in the upstairs rooms of her building...come on, now. Does she need a gilded invitation to explore her own home and business?

Come to think on it, perhaps I'm not so lukewarm about the whole thing overall. It's time Maura and I bid farewell.

Before she finds a po under the bed and asks 45 people to identify it for her.

Mystereity Reviews says

This would've easily been a 5 star book if not for 2 things: endless repetition of all the story's details every couple of pages and the ridiculous rescue plot.

This series has always had a lot of internal dialogue to it, but it just seemed to make this book drag. It added nothing to the story and felt like filler. In fact, I skipped 2 or 3 chapters in the middle because the story just wasn't moving along.

The plot to rescue the missing farmer nearly made me stop reading the book. Seriously? As a plot device, it stinks. Just implausible and ridiculous.

Overall, not a terrible book, but this series definitely needs to move a few plot lines forward (can we do away with the the whole Mick/Sean/Clueless Maura thing now, please??)

Chris Conley says

Well, Maura certainly is settling into Sullivan's and the Leap community. I am so very much enjoying going along with her as she figures out who she wants to be. I suspect the folks who think of Sullivan's as their pub will continue to find her fascinating.

Jessica Robbins says

For complete review check out my blog at <https://booksaplentybookreviews.blogs...>

Nicole says

I have overall enjoyed this series thus far, however, this was probably my least favorite book within it. I found the characters to be less realistic and likeable. The story was a bit more unbelievable. It wasn't bad, just not my favorite.

Marlene says

4.5

Review at Cozy Girl Reads

Looking forward to the next one.

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

I couldn't wait to return to Ireland and Sullivan's Pub. In this 4th book, Maura just blooms. People are coming to the pub to await news about a local farmer that has gone missing. He was walking on the beach with his 4 year old son when he disappeared. All the little boy can offer is that he saw a boat. The sea has taken many men, did it take this man too?

As the days go by and she listens to the people around her, including the farmer's brother, she starts to realize what may have happened. She decides to do a bit of investigating to see if what she is thinking could have happened, and if it did, is there any way to save the man and bring him back from his family.

Like An Early Wake, this story has a slow build to draw us in and lets us get to know these very appealing characters. Gillian who usually summers in the area is back due to some upheaval in her life and she moves in with Maura and they become very close. They are also great sounding boards for each other. Maura meets several new people too and learns all about true Irish Whiskey. It is these new people that help her test her

theory of what happened to the farmer. There is just a bit of romance too. Both Maura and Gillian are trying to sort out their hearts.

About midway through the book the suspense ratchets up as a plan starts to come together. At this point the book became glued to my hands and the pages turned much faster. Again we see that crime can be anywhere, even in County Cork. The area around Leap seems to be a prime area for an unsavory time-honored tradition and we find out about it right along with Maura.

This is my favorite book in the series so far. I loved the suspense and the way the author set the groundwork. I loved the humor as Maura learns more about the area, the pub and even her home. I especially enjoy the community feel of Sullivan's Pub, the way people gather in good times and when things taken A Turn For The Bad. This was an absolutely wonderful read. I want to book my next escape to Ireland today!

Patrizia says

Altro bel libro di questa serie ambientata in Irlanda. Trovo solo irreale che, alla fine, la protagonista e un gruppetto di suoi amici riescano a salvare un uomo rapito da dei trafficanti di droga, senza ricevere neanche un graffio... Oltretutto, non è che la polizia locale ci faccia una bella figura...

Jessica says

I still don't like Maura- it's neverending "in Boston everyone is so busy/so violent/drugs/alcohol/no one cares about anyone", on and on. We get it- Boston is big and you are in a tiny town. HOWEVER: I love everyone else so much that I am totally willing to overlook her annoying repetition to spend some more time in Sullivan's! This is an interesting crime, and it is finally starting to show that small towns aren't as self-contained as you think. Wonderful cozy!

Linda says

I really enjoy this series! Maura is a very real character and I love watching her as she is finding her way in Ireland. This story was interesting as she learned more about the criminal aspect of Ireland and that it's not all idyllic. I also enjoy the supporting characters and can't wait to see what happens next.

Betty says

Smuggling In Cork County

This series continues to be delightful as Maura continues to learn about Irish customs when a dairyman is missing. He took his son on a walk on a beach near his farm and disappears. Sullivans become the place where everyone gathers to hear the news on the search. Winter is coming and Maura needs to learn about heating her cottage. She has a guest, Gillian who has a secret. How these problems played out will keep turning the pages. This is my series by this author.

Lisa Ks Book Reviews says

Author Sheila Connolly has once again pulled me in with her masterful storytelling.

After reading A TURN FOR THE BAD, it's plain to see why author Connolly is a New York Times Bestselling Author. I'm a fan of both her Orchard, and Museum Mysteries. But her County Cork series is a style all its own.

A great cozy, yet different from your average cozy mystery stories, A TURN FOR THE BAD, set in County Cork, Ireland, finds American protagonist Maura Donovan involved in a strange mystery when one man disappears, and another is found dead. The subject of smuggling comes into the story, and makes for a very exciting twist. Also, Maura finds out something about one of her friends that could ruin more than one friendship.

An amazing story, magnificently written, I finished this book in a matter of hours. Every paragraph I read felt more and more like I was play a part in a phenomenal story worthy of not just the printed word, but a classic mystery film.

All I can say is, Ms. Connolly, you have a lifelong fan in me!

Donna says

This is a great series and everytime I read a book in the series I want to move to Ireland. But I did have a hard time relating to this book. Maura owns the pub Sullivans and when word gets out that a local farmer disappears while walking on the beach with his young son that is all everyone at the pub is talking about. The local gardi and coast guard can't seem to find any sign of him and when Maura starts hearing rumors of drug smugglers she decides to investigate with the help of her friends. Sheila's books are always entertaining and full of Irish history. They are full of great characters that makes you want to have a 'pint' with them and the way she describes the area you can close your eyes and be there. But I did have a hard time believing that the main character could come up with a way to find the guy that the gardi and coast guard couldn't. A little unbelievable and out of character for me.

Debbie Lester says

Sheila Connolly's latest book in the County Cork Mystery series, A Turn for the Bad is an example of what a good cozy should be. The author chooses Ireland for the setting of this series and readers are not only hot on the heels of a mystery but also immersed in the culture and history of the country. Connolly proves why she is a New York Times Bestseller with an intriguing look into smuggling and Irish Whiskey. This is a very good addition to this unique cozy mystery series!

What I liked:

Shelia Connolly knows how to set a scene. When she first came out with the County Cork series, I wasn't too sold on the idea until I started reading. Most cozies are generally set in the US but I hope the change of local is something that will become a trend because I think Connolly shows that it can be very interesting for the reader. Ireland is one of those countries that has such a old world feel to it. The pacing of life is different and what matters to these characters might seem uncommon or unusual to us. That gives the series a rare sort of atmosphere that is addictive.

In A Turn for the Bad readers are introduced to the idea of smuggling and how it is being played out on the Irish coast. I thought this was a really unique premise for a cozy and Connolly does a wonderful job with it. Makes me think of pirates and the like... lol! As the clues began to turn up and Maura begins to investigate the reader will become more and more intrigued. I wasn't sure that Maura had a real reason to investigate this one since she didn't know the missing farmer personally. But she started piecing it together a little at a time and just couldn't stop herself. It made for a different kind of cozy that I liked a lot.

Sullivan's Pub might as well be a character unto itself. This is a great gathering place for this tight knit Irish community and liked seeing all of the interactions between the characters in this setting. It's basically the local hang out and it was perfect for lots of jigsawing about what was going on in this mystery. Wish we had a place like this around here. Maura meets several new characters in this book, that I hope will become regulars at the pub. It's always great adding new faces to the guest list.

What I didn't like:

This one has a bit of a slow start. Readers who are looking for that murder right off that bat, will have to wait a bit for the scenarios to play out. I would definitely not say the beginning was boring, it was just slow to heat up. It didn't bother me but it could turn some readers off. When the action does get going, it takes off like wildfire.

Bottom Line:

This is a great series. It's unique. It's different and Connolly goes the extra mile to make it authentic and credible, right down to the whiskey. It started out a little slow but that's not a deal breaker. It certainly made up for it in the end. Maura is a great cozy heroine and I can't wait to see what she gets into next.

Betty says

This series continues to be delightful as Maura continues to learn about Irish customs when a dairyman Disappears while taking his 3-year-old son on a walk on a nearby beach. Sullivans becomes the to place for people to get information on the search. Maura learns about minor smuggling that the locals overlook. Winter is coming on and Maura needs to learn about heating her cottage. Gillian has returned to Leaf and is staying. Gillian has secret. How these problems play out will keep you turning the pages.
