



The Irish Tempest

Elizabeth J. Sparrow

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Ireland, 1911: After seven centuries of unyielding oppression, there is a tempest rising, a national yearning for Irish independence. It threatens to sweep away all that is precious to the very privileged O'Rourke and de la Roche families. Seismic changes are but a whisper away.

What begins as a squabbling friendship between the wastrel Courtland O'Rourke and the defiant, mischief-making Lacey de la Roche matures into a deeply passionate, tempestuous love, fraught with secrets of lethal consequences and sins of omission.

In this debut historical novel, *The Irish Tempest* beckons the reader into a world, where landowner and tenant farmer, the well-off and the working-class are chafing under the chokehold of British domination.

Pulled apart by personal and social conflicts, Court and Lacey experience the world from perspectives both transformative and destructive. Court, compelled to accept a commission in the British army, initiates a disastrous affair with rippling aftershocks. Lacey, fueled by the arrogance of adolescence, is beguiled by a charismatic but sociopathic horse trainer.

The Irish Tempest thrusts the reader into the anguish of the 1916 Easter Rising and beyond as Ireland seethes on the cusp of revolution. Deftly paced with vividly drawn characters, *The Irish Tempest* embraces historical elements while preserving the essence of evocative storytelling.

The Irish Tempest Details

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From Reader Review The Irish Tempest for online ebook

Amanda says

I've been really, really into reading about Ireland these days, so this book was a welcome addition to my stack. This is a fun little book, telling the stories of revolution, family, friendship, and love. Nice to get some info regarding the actual Irish revolution for independence, and the story makes it real and personal. It was really interesting to read, and engaging and personal as well. It could have dived a bit deeper into the actual political climate, but for those who don't know a lot about that period of history, it's a good glimpse into that world without diving you too deep. This is one I'd like to pass onto others to enjoy as well.

Erin says

Find this and other reviews at: <https://historicalfictionreader.blogs...>

Elizabeth J. Sparrow's *The Irish Tempest* is marketed as a historical romance, but it should be understood that the ratio is round about 30:70 in favor of fitful mewling and surging loins. There's nothing wrong with that, romance is a booming genre with an avid readership, but I personally prefer historical romance that is weighted in the other direction.

The jacket places a certain emphasis on the Rising so let's start there. The beginning of the insurrection is traditionally marked by Pearse's reading of the 1916 Proclamation outside the GPO. The declaration was signed by seven of the movement's leaders, but for some unknown reason, Sparrow mentions only five: Tom Clarke, James Connolly, Joseph Plunkett, Thomas MacDonagh, and Patrick Pearse. The remaining two, Sean MacDiarmada and Eamonn Ceannt, are entirely omitted from the text and replaced by Michael Collins and Éamon de Valera. I was annoyed as hell that Sparrow eclipsed the Rising with a scene of attempted rape, but there's simply no excuse to have dropped two of the key players from enjoying their moment in the limelight.

On a similar note, the Rising didn't just happen. It wasn't planned at the last moment and the ideals that drove it weren't new. Clarke himself had been fighting for the cause of Irish freedom since the late 1870s. Tensions had been steadily increasing for years, but Sparrow's narrative ignores this reality and fumbles any and all development of the political landscape that shaped these men and their ideals. I wanted these concepts to take center stage, the prominence placed on them in the description is why I picked up the book, but at the end of the day the subject matter wasn't central to the story at hand and that fact left me bitterly disappointed.

The love story didn't interest me and I can't say I cared much for Sparrow's cast, but I'm not above giving the author credit where due. There are passages in this piece that are downright lyrical and I found much of the dialogue humorous and entertaining. There's also a noticeable build-up to the conflict between Collins and de Valera in the final chapters of the story and I like how that attention sets the stage for the intended sequel.

Not a complete wash, but not something I see myself recommending to fellow readers.

Claudia says

Thank you Elizabeth J. Sparrow and Waxing Gibbous Press for the free copy of this book.

I enjoyed it very much. The characters grew on me as they themselves went through a decade of enormous world, Irish and personal changes. So much going on in one beautifully organized book. The Maureen O'Hara hair and horses on the cover hooked me, the story kept me reading.

Karen A. says

Unlike most heroes and heroines, those nearly perfect and unselfish characters we meet in many “historic” novels, it was a pleasant surprise to find two very real people in this delightful novel – characters full of their own self-interests, yet very likeable. Lacey and Court, in *The Irish Tempest* by Elizabeth Sparrow, are two vibrant and compelling individuals, who captivate the reader with both their exploits and their compassion. Entering their world, we observe the evolution of these characters from self-absorbed young antagonists to mature, multi-faceted individuals. Another pleasant surprise with this self-published first novel is the very professional editing and quick-moving plot that make this book a joy to read. I've struggled through many first novels that have great plots yet are painful to read because of sloppy editing.

In *The Irish Tempest*, not only will you learn a great deal about the history of the world during the early 1900s in Ireland, India, and the United States – a fascinating and frightening time – but you will enjoy an exciting, well-written tale of friendship, revenge, love and betrayal. A remarkable story – beguiling and unsettling, much like the main character, Lacey de la Roche – that will satisfy both the romantic and the historian.

Karisa says

Rating:

★★★★ = I enjoyed this book but would not reread it in the future

Genre:

Historical Romance

Plot:

The forming of a friendship turned romance between Courtland and Lacey in Ireland during the early 1900's.

Pros:

- 1.) Ireland!
- 2.) Army! I love military stuff in books.
- 3.) Lacey is relatable in a lot of the way she reacts.

Cons:

2.) Betrayal??? No, thanks. That hits way too close to home.

Quotes:

None jumped out at me, unfortunately.

My thoughts:

Im looking back at what I wrote above and it sounds like I hated this book. I didn't hate it but I didn't love it either. I guess my expectations were high because Im an idiot and read other readers reviews before I read the book for myself. I picked this book up expecting to be immersed and not able to put it down which was not the case. I enjoyed Lacey but didn't like Courtland at all. I think Lacey deserved better than him. I hate that he left so early but I do love the whole military aspect of the book. I also love that the book is set in Ireland. I am all about books that take place where I wish I was on a daily basis. I do feel like some of the characters were undeveloped just like other readers mentioned BUT that didn't bother me at all because I didn't particularly care for those characters in the first place. I am looking forward to reading the second installment in this series. I am hoping for some commitment and loyalty!

Carol says

Intricately woven, historic fiction that creates a riveting storyline. It is set in Ireland.

In 1911, the Irishmen are in a state of discontent being under English influence. This discontent is fostered by both upper and lower classes.

This story will grip the reader in an steadfast hold from beginning until the end.

Description is skillfully woven throughout the story. You will feel as if you are part of the family.

All the characters are vivid, colorful and well defined.

The main characters are willful, lively, interesting with undeniable chemistry between them.

Loss, heartbreak, the Irish revolution, betrayal of trust mix with some shenanigans, growth and love with captivating writing for a good historical fiction read.

I volunteered to read The Irish Tempest. Thanks to Read for Review for the opportunity. My opinion is my own.

Seraphia says

The Irish Tempest by Elizabeth J. Sparrow is a beautifully written historical romance that takes us back to Ireland 1911. When the Irish are desirous of freedom and unrest is brooding throughout the land. All of this threatens the lives of comfort and privilege that the O'Rourkes and de la Roche families. The question stands as to what will these changes bring to the lives of Courtland O'Rourke and Lacey de la Roche. Him just

coming back from a month in London to see his grandfather only to be caught up in a scandal concerning a young lady who was free with her liberties and him to be sent away to the military. While Lacey, after more than one near death experience, is packed off to boarding schools as her father attempts to make a lady out of her as the sole parent in her life. Courtland experiences danger at every turn despite where he is sent because of the jealousies fueled by a man's wife who Courtland has not interest in. While Lacey continues to get into mischief no matter where she goes constantly putting her life in danger. Love bloomed young between the two and the grandfather has done much to foster it and encourage it but the father himself is less pleased all in all. What will come of the pair in the end?

The Irish Tempest is the first book that I have read by Elizabeth J. Sparrow and I have to say that it is probably my favorite historical romance that I have read in a long time, second only to *Gone With the Wind*. This story is so well written and thought out that you can't help but be drawn in with each page that you turn as you pass back and forth between Court and his life as he makes his years in the military, to Lacey as she is shipped off to schools and her father attempts to make a proper lady out of her. You get to watch these two as they grow and develop in their respective lives and years apart from each other. Court endures the hardships of war and the pains of loss while Lacey begins to bloom and mature and become curious about other things.

These characters are far from perfect and I have to honestly say that it is one of the many things that I love about this story. The characters you can relate to and you can get angry, irritated, love, adore or just want to give them a good smack. Court is in and out of Lacey's life but you can tell that he does truly care for her and wants what's best for the girl. Lacey is spoiled, petulant, head strong and determined. She is a strong character but you can tell that she doesn't think and consider the consequences of her actions before she does things which constantly puts her in the path of trouble. You easily see how immature she is when it comes to the men especially when she is trying to have both men that she feels she has feelings for but you can't have your cake and ice cream too, which she learns. I didn't like the other guy because as Court says, "he's opportunistic and looking for a means of making a quick bit of money." I felt that Ran always saw Lacey more as an opportunity and that only later he sees her differently but not by much.

This is a beautifully written story and I truly enjoyed reading it. I love how each character gets time in the limelight and the focus of the story as they contribute so well to the development of the main characters and the story itself. There is heartbreak, loss, treachery, love and joy. This book has it all. I really look forward to reading more from this author in the future and will be encouraging others to read this dynamic novel.

Now, there is some sexual content and violence in this story but nothing graphic that should dissuade any reader (adult) from reading and enjoying this beautifully written novel.

I am rating this book 5 out of 5 stars and can say I absolutely enjoyed it.

Michelle says

Not bad.

I loved it.

Great story.

Can't wait for the sequel. I'll be keeping an eye out for it.

Recommended.

Received as a Gr giveaway.

Katherine says

Although the title is *The Irish Tempest*, it is not clear if it is meant to refer to the spoiled, headstrong Lacey, who irritated me completely, or to the Irish attempt to gain independence from Britain. If the latter, there was certainly very little about the Troubles. Although the bulk of the book revolves around the relationship between Lacey and Court, the relationship between their two families was rather murky. This earlier section is sweet and pastoral, it is repetitious and doesn't really explore the Raj in India and Irish soldiers in a British Army, nor does it spend much time on World War I and any impact it may have had on Ireland or the families of the story.

Lacey's relationship with Ran and Court's with Katherine are strange undeveloped plot lines. Some characters are not mentioned for so long in the narrative, that I forgot how they fit in the story. I finished reading the book, because it was pleasant enough reading. It finally picked up speed and became interesting at the end when the RIC and British started to truly go at a war to decide Ireland's fate. The story ends at the point where Britain is trying to get either Collins or de Valera to take a deal and the family has suffered loss of family members and possessions and appear to be leaving for America. There is to be a sequel. I hope there is more depth to the story and less scope in time.

Aldis says

The Irish Tempest by Elizabeth J. Sparrow is a romance set in the beginnings of the Irish resistance of British rule, spanning 11 years and several continents.

Court O'Rourke grew up in Torrey Castle, raised by his Grandfather Devlin and Aggie, the housekeeper. His constant companion was Lacey de la Roche, Captain Anton de la Roche's daughter who was raised beside him when her father went to sea. Lacey's rebellious streak keeps Court, several years older, quite busy. The 2 grow apart as Court matures and goes to India in the British Army, and Lacey gets sent to boarding school. As usual, Lacey makes her life more interesting - by racing her horse. She falls for Ransom Longo, a man of many dubious talents and loyalties. Lacey finds herself torn between the 2 men, and when the Irish begin resisting the British rule, both men get caught up in it, finding themselves strange allies for a time. Love, blackmail, killing, and kidnapping are some of what happens throughout the rest of the story, in the lyric green hills of Ireland. Sparrow has now tempted me to look into Irish history of that time because her story was so compelling. It starts out slow and sweet, then starts steamrolling until the end. I liked this because the lessons of history are not hammered into the story; the story is a natural slice of the history. If you like history and romance, this is a good choice. I will now be looking up what else Sparrow has written...

Lynn says

Thank you for making this title available. Unfortunately, the further I read, the more I was convinced that this was not the kind of book that I would enjoy. This is no criticism whatsoever of the plot, characters, writing style, setting, or the author. Merely a statement of my own preferences.

CoffeeTimeRomance andMore says

I normally enjoy historical fiction yet found myself being lost many times moving forward through *The Irish Tempest*. There were so many places and issues happening at once. Yet that was my only issue reading this book. I did enjoy the colorful cast of characters and the ever-growing romance between Lacey and Courtland. Overall I would say use your own judgment but if you are fans of this genre I am sure it will be

too your liking.

Matilda

Reviewer for Coffee Time Romance & More

Full Review @ Coffee Time Romance & More

Lee says

An epic story of family and destiny! I really enjoyed this story of an Irish family and a high-born daughter, Lacey, as she grows from a feisty, headstrong child to an independent, strong woman. Courtland is the teenage boy that received a lash from her whip as he was trying to teach her to ride her horse. He becomes the only one who can handle the fiery lass, and they are destined to be lifelong friends. Set in the early 1900's, times of war and rebellion come throughout their lives, and you wonder if they will ever have a time of love and peace. It's a tumultuous tale, covering many different events and people in their lives; all with a good dose of Irish brogue and tenacity, as well as temper in the midst of a strong love. I highly recommend this book. It captures your attention with the antics of the young Lacey, and then you have to keep reading to find out what happens to her in her life and love.

Karen Turner says

Loved the story, would like to continue reading more from the author. Received from net galley for an honest review.

Mystica says

My knowledge of Irish English relations was a bit hazy and this helped in a way to clear some of the misconceptions I had.

The year 1911 and there is a simmering discontent amongst all walks of Irishmen. Unlike most rebellions which are confined to the labour and lower working class, this transcends class barriers and upper class folk also want to throw off the yoke of English supremacy in their own country.

Thrown together by circumstance and geography Court and Lacey lives are interwoven from the time Lacey was an infant and Court a teenager. The relationship is a tender one from the very onset but circumstances of a mixed up reasoning drives Court to take a position in the English Army in India for three years. Lacey is heart broken but is also attracted by a scheming and charismatic horse trainer in her family's employ.

The Easter Uprising of 1916 is meshed into the story along with the fledgling romance of Lacey and Court, their marriage and their future.

This was a very fine debut novel and I am waiting for the sequel.
