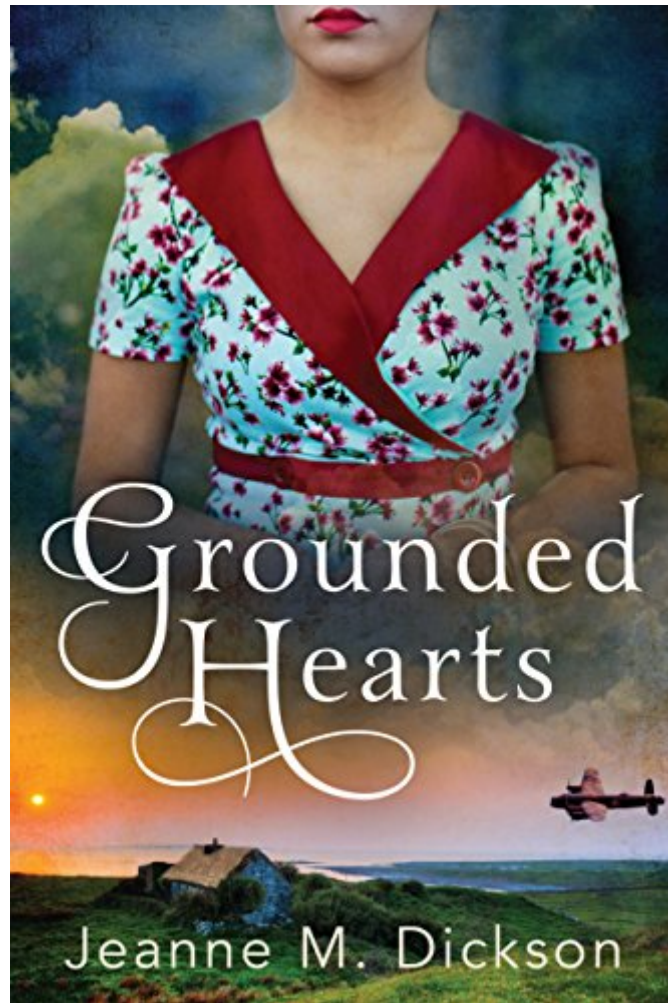




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Grounded Hearts



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Synopsis

In the midst of World War II, Ireland has declared herself neutral. Troops found on Irish soil must be reported and interned, no matter which side they are fighting for. When midwife Nan O'Neil finds a wounded young Canadian pilot at her door, she knows she's taking a huge risk by letting him in. Not only is she a widow living alone, but if caught harboring a combatant, she'll face imprisonment. Still, something compels Nan to take in "flyboy" Dutch Whitney, an RAF pilot whose bomber has just crashed over County Clare. While she tends to his wounds and gives him a secret place of refuge, the two begin to form a mutual affection and an unbreakable bond. But Nan has another secret, one that has racked her with guilt since her husband's death and made her question ever loving again. As Nan and Dutch plan his escape, can he help restore her faith?

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Customer Reviews

3.5 stars Irish midwife, Nan O'Neil finds herself in a predicament when an injured Canadian pilot

shows up on her doorstep. Ireland has decided to stay neutral during World War II and Nan is therefore required to report the foreign soldier to authorities so he can be interned. After tending to his wounds, she decides to temporarily give him shelter until he is fit enough to sneak up into Northern Ireland where he will be safe. This isn't the only secret she is keeping from others. Nan has been wracked with guilt over what really happened in the death of her first husband. Does she even deserve a second shot at love? I have read quite a few World War II novels over the years but I think this is the first time I have ever read one with Ireland as the setting. Most of the books usually take place in France, England or Germany. So even though this is a typical war romance novel the location made it a little more unique. What I enjoyed most about the book was the strong female characters. The midwife, the doctor, and the female mechanic were all capable of taking care of themselves and were independent. This fact isn't really surprising or shocking but just nice that it was displayed full force in this book. Faith plays a big part in Nan's life but it didn't really overtake the story line in my opinion. There are plenty of cheeky sexual innuendos throughout the book so I wouldn't classify this as Christian fiction even though religion plays a part in the story. Overall, this is a solid World War II romance. Towards the end it gets a bit messy and a bit absurd but it still is an entertaining read. If you like romance novels especially during WWII then definitely give this one a shot. I received a free ebook in a giveaway and that is my honest review.

Love this book. Jeanne Dickson writes a wonderful and engaging story. I could not put this book down. I even bought one for my Mom she loved it too!! If you like romance with a fun plot read this book!

Very good historical novel. Besides enjoying the characters and the plot, I learned some details about World War II that I was not aware of. It was a very good read! I would recommend it!

Once I started reading, it was hard to put down.

Pretty good book

excellent story and happy ending.

I was in nursing school when I met my pilot husband; who's father's side of the family immigrated from Ireland just three generations ago.

Therefore, when I read the synopsis of *Grounded Hearts* my curiosity was piqued. March brought with it Jeanne M. Dickson's cover reveal and I was totally smitten... To the extent that I joined the Litfuse Blogger tour! However, when printing was delayed I pre-ordered a digital copy along with audible narration. Alana Kerr Collins was the perfect narrator for this story. Her lilting Irish brogue captured the story in a way I could never have achieved on my own. Add to this her ability to convey the urgency or intimacy of a scene and you have a pretty perfect audio performance. Dickson gave me a crash course in Ireland's neutrality during WWII as well as a refresher course in Catholicism. As to the first, I believe she adequately explains Ireland's political climate during war and how they implemented and executed internment for Allied and Axis combatants. To the later, nothing on the cover keys potential readers into the integral role Catholicism will play in the story. However, the Church's views on suicide, confession, penance, relics, and worship make up the very fabric of who Nan is and what governs her decision making. Nan's concealment of Dutch as well as her efforts to smuggle him to freedom are reminiscent of other stories set in Europe during this time period. Instead of the SS we have the sleazy, status seeking, Shamus Finn. We also have a network of co-conspirators - a hilarious group of women and one unconventional American doctor. What may be new to some Christian fiction readers is the rather steamy scenes between Nan and Dutch. Overall, a good debut novel even if some aspects were a little unexpected.

In a nutshell the setting is World War II, County Clare Ireland. As Ireland has declared their country neutral, any troops captured must be reported and interned. The story opens with a Canadian RAF bomber crashing and introduces to a wounded flyer named Dutch Whitney. He doesn't know where he is but he needs to find his crew and make it to Northern Ireland so he can get back into the war. He sees a light at a cottage and starts practicing his Irish accent so he won't be mistaken for Canadian. (Ha!) Wounded, he makes his way toward the cottage. Twenty-eight year old midwife Nan O'Neil (a widow) answers the door and takes him in. She busts him right away on the fake brogue as it is soooo over the top. But so is her dialogue once you get into the book. "Top of the mornin' |evening to ya. 'Tis meself, a muffled voice answered. "Sit here, so she brought him water and surveyed his face. Ah, but he had altogether gorgeous blue eyes. His hand touched hers, sending a rush of heat over her skin. No, don't be drawn to this fella. No good would come of it. Nan will be sent

to prison if she's caught harboring a soldier but you can see that's the way the story is going. It's very predicable with her inward swooning over his eyes and muscular body. Common, it's so obvious she likes his looks and is attracted to him all the while telling herself to step back. It's the template of other books where girl meets boy, girl tells herself she must not get involved, repeat this a few times and finally they get together. I thought it might be more Ireland-centric but that wasn't the case. I won this book from Goodreads in a Kindle format. Thank you Goodreads!

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