

65,000 words – Contemporary Romance

FINAL REQUEST

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Synopsis

Ethan David, a college senior from Kentucky with a promising baseball future, struggles to emotionally move on after a painful breakup with Amber, his longtime college sweetheart. As Ethan tries to distance himself from her memory, he travels to Ireland during Spring Break to reconnect with his Irish ancestry. In the magical setting of Bunratty Castle, he meets Maura Dougall, a talented Irish folk singer who performs there. Immediately attracted to her, Maura is guarded when it comes to love. Despite their differences, Ethan and Maura quickly and intensely fall for each other, and she follows him to America to pursue his professional baseball career. Just before their planned wedding, Maura discovers she is pregnant and has been diagnosed with an incurable disease. Devastated and not wanting to jeopardize Ethan's baseball dreams, she ends their relationship and secretly returns to Ireland.

Over the next 10 years, Ethan experiences stardom as a major-league pitcher for the Cincinnati Reds. Briefly married, he then became a full-time single father to Christopher, his now eight-year-old son. After a career-ending injury forces him into early retirement, Ethan is offered to become his former team's pitching coach; his dream job. Because of his parenting duties, Ethan is torn about the offer and given a short window of time to decide.

After being asked to represent the Reds at a baseball conference in Dublin, Ireland, Ethan receives an urgent message from Maura asking him to meet her. Still bitter, he refuses to see her until she shows up at his conference. Maura explains that she has a terminal illness and wants to make amends for how she hurt Ethan before she

dies. She also reveals that they have a daughter, Nora, whom she wants him to raise, but Ethan doubts the young girl is his.

Extending his trip, Ethan and Maura renew their past while Christopher and Nora become inseparable. Kiara MacKenna, Maura's best friend and neighbor, is introduced. Now under pressure to join the Reds' pitching staff, Ethan feels overwhelmed by the career-defining coaching opportunity and the possibility of raising another child alone.

After convincing evidence that Nora is his daughter, Ethan rejects the coaching position and decides to adopt her. Observing Ethan and Kiara's evolving friendship and her motherly interaction with the children, Maura, now at peace, encourages Ethan not to reject the opportunity to love again and, with her blessing, to consider Kiara as a possible option.

With Maura's demise fast-approaching, Ethan sets out to create a series of memorable moments that provide a heartfelt reminder of how much he cares for Maura. After Maura's death, and with Ethan and Kiara's newfound love in full bloom, Maura makes her presence known at Ethan and Kiara's wedding in a spirited way that confirms her approval of their marriage.

Now that Ethan has honored Maura's final wish, he, Kiara, and the children return to Kentucky to begin their future together.