

FINAL REQUEST

By: Carl D. Lord

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 the Emerald Isle 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. Over time, their connection is undeniable, but life pulls them in different directions. Ethan must return to the U.S. to pursue his professional baseball career, while Maura, unable to overcome her fear of commitment, refuses to follow, thus ending their budding romance.

During the next ten years, Ethan briefly marries and divorces. A career-ending baseball injury forces him to refocus his life as a single father to his eight-year-old son, Christopher. He then receives an urgent message from Maura asking him to meet her back in Ireland. Still haunted by their past and curious about her message, Ethan travels back to Ireland with his son.

When they arrive, he is stunned to find that Maura is dying of a terminal illness and reveals she has a daughter, Abhora. Ethan confronts Maura about why she ended their relationship, including her daughter, whom she kept hidden from him. Regardless of whether Abhora is his biological child or not, Maura's illness becomes secondary as she wants Ethan to adopt the little girl and raise her as his own.

As Ethan reconnects with Maura, he's flooded with memories of what might have been. Despite their years apart, their emotional bond has never broken. Ethan

struggles with grief, guilt, and the daunting task of blending two families while coping with Maura's inevitable death. During this time, Maura introduces Ethan to her best friend, Kiara, and encourages him to consider her as a future wife and mother to their children. Just before her demise, Ethan agrees to honor Maura's final request to raise Abhora while falling in love with Kiara.

With Ethan's heart now reshaped by loss and forgiveness, *FINAL REQUEST* is a heartfelt exploration of second chances, the quiet strength of love, and the legacy we leave behind in the people we cherish most.