

52,000 words – Contemporary Romance

FINAL REQUEST

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Synopsis

Ethan David, a college senior from Kentucky with a promising baseball future, is emotionally distraught after a painful breakup with Amber, his long-time college sweetheart. As Ethan tries to distance himself from her memory during Spring Break, he travels to the Emerald Isle 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. Opposite of Ethan culturally, Maura is guarded when it comes to love. Yet 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, and Maura, carrying emotional wounds and issues with commitment, refuses to follow, thus ending their budding romance.

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During the next ten years, Ethan briefly marries and divorces. A career-ending baseball injury forces him to refocus on his life as a single father, raising Christopher, his eight-year-old son. Out of the blue, he 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 Maura gravely ill. She's dying of a terminal illness and reveals she has a daughter, Abhora. Ethan is forced to confront the truth about their past and the reasons Maura pushed him away, including the daughter she kept hidden from him. Whether Abhora is his biological child or not becomes secondary to Maura's plea: she wants Ethan to adopt her 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

copied 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.