



My Dearest Love

Sarah M. Eden

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From the USA Today Bestselling author of the Longing for Home series, MY DEAREST LOVE is a new romance novella set in the beloved world of Hope Springs.

Ian O'Connor spends his days in the purgatory of a New York textile factory, enduring the dangerous conditions to keep his family afloat. Somewhere in the vast, dark corridors of his daily prison is an angel. He has seen her only once but is determined to find her again.

Biddy Dillon has lost her home and her family. Loneliness chips away at her fragile hopes until she meets Ian, whose soft-spoken kindness touches her heart. For the first time in years, she begins to believe in the possibility of good things to come.

When tragedy conspires to pull the couple apart, they must decide if theirs is a future meant to be built together, or if fate has other plans.

My Dearest Love Details

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From Reader Review My Dearest Love for online ebook

Kathryn says

Love the O'Conner Family and getting to know Bidy and Ian's coming together before the great adventure of moving to Hope Springs

Amariah Dixon says

I really enjoyed this story, unable to put it down! Ian and Bidy are such a sweet couple, and the characters are three dimensional. The romance is wholesome and near the end I started getting teary-eyed! It is a quick read, and I wish it would've been longer, but that is the sign of a good story. The detail was awesome--I could imagine anything and everything going on. I wish Bidy had more justice with that stupid boss of hers'. Even though the author doesn't go into that, I hope he got what he deserved. Otherwise, I would highly recommend this story for anyone searching for a good story, particularly anyone looking for a good Historical Christian romance.

M.A. Nichols says

Meh. I'm giving this three stars because it did make me chuckle quite a bit, but the story itself felt a bit pointless. Since it's a novella, it doesn't have a lot of plot going for it, and unfortunately, the romance doesn't have a lot going for it, either. Don't get me wrong. I love the main characters. But they have an insta-love story. They just see each other and are instantly in love with each other. There's not a lot to it, nor did I really feel like I got some deeper insight into the characters. It kind of felt like a pointless story that didn't say much. Not bad, but not memorable.

UPDATE:

I did enjoy this the second time around. I reread it because I wanted to reread the whole series before diving into the next book, and it was better than I remember it. Not that I disliked it before, but it's entertaining. I still don't think it's much of a romance since I'm not a fan of insta-love, but I adore the O'Connors, so it's nice to get a bit more with them and the novella is kind of important to understand them a little more. I'd say it's more of a 3.5 stars for me the second time around.

Heidi Robbins (Heidi Reads...) says

What a sweet love story! I fell in love with the O'Connor family living in the tenements of New York City. Instead of allowing the harsh circumstances pull them apart, their bond keeps them strong and supportive of each other. Ian is a man confident in his skills, yet adorable with his uncertainty and vulnerability when it comes to a certain lass. Buddy is completely alone but her mother's words to keep making the best of things helps motivate her to work hard in the loud factory. This is my favorite kind of romance, where we get to see the two develop a friendship that progresses into love. Ian's brothers Patrick and Tavish have great personalities and I hope we get to read more about them in the future. The ending is bittersweet which

brought out more emotion and curiosity about where the family's journey will take them. I can't wait to read *Love Remains*, the full-length book set in Hope Springs that this novella was a lead-in to.

Hannah says

This one was a delight! It's a quick read, but the story is well paced and engaging. We met Ian and Biddy as side characters in the Hope Springs series, and both of them were easy favorites of mine. It was a real treat to get to see their romance begin in this prequel, showing how they met working in a New York factory.

Julie Carpenter says

This is a prequel to the *Longing for Home* books and if you haven't read any, no worries, this one works great as a standalone. Ian and Biddy are the MCs in this novella and we get to see how they meet and their sweet romance/courtship. In *Longing for Home*, this family has settled out West and the characters reference what happened before they settled in Hope Springs, WY. Bringing us to *My Dearest Love* and getting a taste of this family and especially Ian and Biddy!

This was a sweet story and I really was happy to read more about this couple that I loved in *Longing for Home*. I was pretty excited when Sarah Eden announced that she was writing this story a little while ago knowing who it was about. Yay!!!

I couldn't imagine what life was like back in NYC during the time when so many immigrants were coming to the country. Especially the Irish, thinking they were escaping the horrors of the Famine, only to find themselves disliked (probably not a strong enough word for it) and living in horrible conditions and working in horrific conditions as well. Now, it's not just the Irish who suffered in those conditions but I mentioned them because this book is about some of the Irish immigrants. Miss Eden touches on a little bit about the living/working conditions in this novella as the main characters and the main family live and work in NYC.

I loved Ian and his goodness! I loved his silent and constant ways of caring and showing love to his family, and especially to Biddy because this is a sweet romance story. And Biddy, she was sweet and had a great sense of humor. Two great characters with plenty of sweet moments between them.

Definitely a book about heartache, saying goodbye, sorrows, healing, love and peace. For all you Sarah Eden fans out there, I think you'll enjoy this story, especially with getting to know more about a couple that (hopefully) you've read about in *Longing for Home*. Happy sigh. So, so sweet!

Now let me just say that I can't wait for September to come and to finally read the next installment in this series. *Love Remains*. I love this family and I love this series. Definitely not all are light and fluffy reads. These books deal with sorrow and pain and the need for peace and healing. But there is lots of great humor and good times interwoven throughout that add a great dimension to the love story and heartache. The more I write, the more I start thinking about these characters and really wanting to go back and reread *Longing for Home* and *Hope Springs*.

Content: Clean, just some sweet kisses!

I received a copy from the publisher. All thoughts and opinions in the review are my own.

Happy Reading!!!

Mara says

This is the prequel to the LONGING FOR HOME series, which I haven't read yet. This is Ian O'Connor and Biddy Dillon's story. Ian and Biddy are both Irish immigrants living and working at a textile factory in NYC. Ian takes care of the machinery and Biddy sews using the big industrial machines. Ian is part of a large, loving family living in tenement housing but Biddy is an only child, alone since her mother died, and lives in a run down boarding house far from the factory where she works.

We see how Ian and Biddy meet, their courtship and how Ian's family cares for her after a horrible accident. When the family gets word that they are chosen to move to Hope Springs, WY to work in exchange for land Ian needs to let Biddy know how he feels about her.

This is such a sweet love story. Ian is the perfect guy for the shy Biddy Dillon, and his family is just what she needs after a lonely upbringing. I love knowing the back story to the family living in Hope Springs and look forward to reading the Hope Springs series.

TJ says

Nice premise but not nearly enough time to allow for any depth whatsoever.

Melissa says

This is a short story prequel to the series Longing for Home. You don't need to read the series to read this. You can start with this book or Longing for Home. This was such a sweet story! It took me right back to some of my favorite books. For a short story this was very well done. Complete characters, story line and conflict and resolution. I loved it so much: }

Annette says

This was a very sweet novella. I liked the characters and I thought the plot was great and gave an interesting glimpse of the time period.

Kathy says

This sweet novella is the prequel for the Hope Springs series. It is Ian's story and tells of the time when the O'Connor family lived in NYC working in a dangerous factory just to keep the family fed. Ian works the early shift and repairs the machines at the factory. When he sees Biddy in passing at the factory, he feels the need to find out who she is. Biddy is all alone in the world since her mother's passing. She works at the

factory but somehow seems to be constantly on the receiving end of the overseers' wrath. The book is well written with a wonderful introduction to the characters seen throughout the rest of the series.

Lucinda says

Super cute! Good addition to the series.

Heather says

I loved Ian and Biddy in this story, and it brought me back to the beloved O'Connor family of Hope Springs. This story actually takes place before they arrive in Hope Springs, but can be read separately from Longing for Home 1 & 2. The descriptions of the clothing factory and the references to the politics & government of 1860s New York fleshed out the setting, enriching the story even more. A sweet, endearing romance.

Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says

I love everything Sarah Eden and I love everything Hope Springs. This novella had me craving Hope Springs and the O'Connor family again. I'm so excited that there is a full length novel (Love Remains) coming out soon! Yay!!

This series is about a family of Irish immigrants who come to America in hopes of escaping starvation and depression and finding the American dream. It is full of texture and emotion. There is heartache but hope. It's a grand journey and I would recommend this series to anyone.

Ian is so sweet and gentle. I loved his instant attraction to Biddy and how he views her as an angel- his angel. Ian is exactly who Biddy needs to love her and his family is exactly what she needs as well. This novella was short and sweet- over before I was ready, but it is a great prequel to introduce a fantastic series with an amazing cast of characters. I love this series!

Content: clean, a couple sweet kisses

- I received a copy of this book for free. A positive review was not required and all opinions expressed are my own.

herdys says

Like everything in this series, this short story was a mix of heart and sadness. It was nice to see how Ian and Bitty met, but at the same time, you know they'll suffer in the future.
