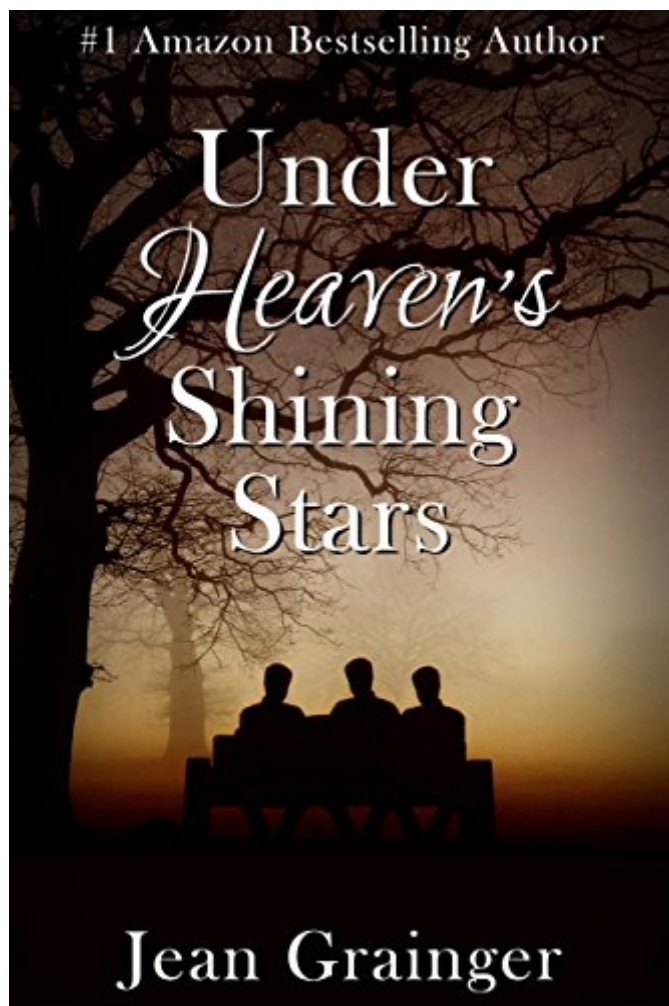


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Under Heaven's Shining Stars



Synopsis

From the author of *So Much Owed*, winner of Authors Choice Best Historical Fiction Award 2016

One is poor but loved. Another born with a silver spoon. The last has seen too much. For three young boys, Liam, Patrick, and Hugo, life in Ireland of the 1960s proves to be both idyllic and flawed. Living in close proximity but leading vastly different lives, the bonds of friendship bind these young men as they grow, dream, and navigate the storms of youth. In a world where the Catholic Church is a looming and pervasive presence, the dreamy ideal of childhood is staunchly contrasted against the backdrop of suffering and darkness in the lives of these three boys. Will their friendship be enough to weather the gale? Or will their separate struggles tear them apart? In *Under Heaven*—the author's *Shining Stars*, author Jean Grainger brings to life the struggles and simplicity that often go hand-in-hand with growing up. Experience the gambit of emotion as you witness the journey of Liam, Patrick, and Hugo as they face the beauty, turmoil, and endless possibilities of life under the turbulent Irish sky.

“This story had me laughing, smiling and crying.” —reviewer

“An absolute Tour de Force, I wished very hard that this story wouldn't end.” —reviewer

Can these young men put each other first, even when the world is telling them otherwise?

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Customer Reviews

This story had me smiling, laughing, and crying. The love and comradely of these three boys, Liam, Patrick, and Hugo, have for one another is so wonderful. Each boy has some sort of tragedy in their lives and they lean on each other for support and direction. You don't hear or see this kind of relationship between boys, who grow up and are still friends. It just wants to make your heart sing for joy! I would highly recommend this book. It covers so much about the Catholic church and her frailties, after all, she is human, like the rest of us. As a Roman Catholic, I can relate to some of the struggles that Liam was having with some of the issues that were popping up over the years with his two other friends, from murder to homosexuality. Liam, who was studying to be a priest, has to figure out what he believes in his heart what is right and what how the Catholic church stands on these issues. A very moving story.

Starts out a little slow. Interesting characters but nothing very exciting seems to happen to them.....and then WHAM! Everything changes and you find yourself gripped by a novel with so many twists & turns it's impossible to put down. And yet at the same time, it's all very true to life. Over and over this story asks the question, "Why do so many bad things happen to good people?" And just like in real life no one seems to have any answers. That's what I mean when I say this book is so real and true to life. I certainly enjoyed every page and I can't imaging anyone who wouldn't.

I have discovered my newest favorite author. Jean Grainger knows how to write. Wow. She brought the lives of 3 young boys into my heart and I watched them mature into magnificent young men. I had a hard time putting this book down also. Her books leave me wanting more of her writing. She knows how to "wrap up" the lives of each character in an epilog so we know what happens to them in later years. I love her books...

An absolute tour de force! The best Jean Grainger book yet - I wished, very hard, that the story wouldn't end! And now, I am praying, equally hard, that she writes a sequel to this spellbinding story. Jean Grainger is a consummate storyteller whose plots are exquisitely crafted, and the

narrative flows effortlessly, told with compassion and an obviously genuine feel for Ireland and the Irish way of life. The characters are beautifully rounded and she seems to, effortlessly, bring out the unique lilt and cadence of both the Irish syntax as well as its unique worldview. Bravo, Jean Grainger - I, for one, just cannot wait for your next book!

A heartwarming story of true friendship. Three boys from different backgrounds Liam from a loving family, Patrick with a loving mother but a drunken abusive unemployed father, and Hugo an earl meet up in secondary school. They stand by each other for more than a decade as Liam becomes a priest, Patrick trains to be an accountant turned murderer and Hugo helps them both along the way being there for them as they were by him helping him through school.

A story of three best friends, Liam, Patrick and Hugo, as they attend St Bart's secondary school, a seminary for wealthy boys, in Cork, Ireland. Their friendship seems unlikely, considering their divergent personalities, but they forge a firm friendship which carries them through poverty, physical abuse, murder, sexual abuse by a priest and the discovery and acceptance of Hugo's homosexuality. Jean Grainger's writing style has an honest, to-the-point simplicity as she brings the reader into the warmth of Liam's home where his mother is the grounding force that binds the three boys together through each crisis. The author broaches some important issues, including questions about Catholicism and homosexuality. The overriding lesson is that love, in all forms, conquers all. Several characters are well-developed and the story is well told. This is the second book from this author I've read.

I just finished this marvelous book last night and was sorry to see it end. Three young boys become lifelong friends on the first day of secondary school. Two of them there on scholarship and the other a paying, wealthy student. This was a riveting look into Irish culture during the time. I would love to know more about Patrick's future life as well as Liam and Hugo. A book that will certainly leave you wanting more.

This is the latest of Jean Grainger's books that I read. When I first started it, I was not sure how I was going to like it. It was very different from her others that I have read. But again, as with all her other books, I could not stop reading and did not want the book to end. The book started out with the main character being a young boy, another young boy was added and then a third. You were

taken through their lives to adulthood with all the twists and turns. Wonderful book.

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