

Scandal in Skibbereen (County Cork, #2) By Sheila Connolly When a gardener is found dead outside of a local manor house Maura starts to question Althea's motives and thinks there is much more to her story than just local for a piece of art. But #2 in the series-- this one--Scandal in Skibbereen is LEAPS (it's a pun--read the book.

The gardener from the old Manor - Mycroft House - is found murdered on it's front lawn. Could the murder be connected to the why - the search for a valuable lost Van Dyck painting - the pushy American is here in Leap? Maura thinks so and soon the village is a washed in rumor and hidden secrets will finally see the light of day. But uncovering the truth about some local rumors may close her down for good... Bostonian Maura is beginning to feel settled in her new Irish home just in time for summer tourist season to bring fresh business to her pub. Now to solve the secret of the lost portrait and catch a killer Maura will have to practice her Irish gift of gab and hunt down some local history—before someone else is out of the picture... Scandal in Skibbereen (County Cork #2)Sheila Connolly taught art history structured and marketed municipal bonds for major cities worked as a staff member on two statewide political campaigns and served as a fundraiser for several non profit organizations. In addition to genealogy Sheila loved restoring old houses visit Sheila Connolly taught art history structured and marketed municipal bonds for major cities worked as a staff member on two statewide political campaigns and served as a fundraiser for several non profit organizations. This is a woman that is aging gracefully living in a Manor House with only 2 other people and a nephew that helps to pay the bills and visits on a rare occasion you'll get it) better. I loved how the author's descriptions of the characters the village and how things are done in Ireland seemed to wrap themselves around the reader and kept me intrigued throughout. Sheila Connolly Maura is beginning to find her feet in Leap and Sullivan's when one day an American arrives like a whirlwind and manages to get Maura to help her track down a Van Dyck painting (Althea needs the help as she seems to be able to get on the wrong side of the Irish without even trying!) the problem seems to be that someone else may have the same idea and unfortunately a local young man has fallen foul of whoever and ended up dead. Now Maura her new friend Gillian (a local artist) Harry (the local landowner) and Althea have a race against time to find the painting and find out the truth about the death. We meet a few more characters in this installment such as Gillian(the artist and sometimes date of Harry Townsend) Harry Townsend(playboy nephew of matriarch Eveline) and matriarch Eveline Townsend(keeper of several secrets and owner of the Townsend Estate). Trying to get into the estate is another hurdleespecially after the estate gardener is founddead!!Why was he killed? Why is the American reallywant to find this painting?The cast of characters are entertaining welldefined colorful and all have relatable qualities: Althea is not use to Irish traditions and comes across as "a bull in a China shop" as she tries to get Maura and others to help her find the painting, Dollycas's ThoughtsFinding out I have a bit of Irish heritage myself makes me love these mysteries. Maura is still finding her way in her new surroundings but she has something every barkeep needs.

The gift of gab: She is friendly and outgoing and really strives to get to know the people around her: When my parents owned a tavern there was always a group of elders there each day to play cards and share old stories and new, I could sit and listen to them for hours and they taught me how to win at cards too. I also love the recurring characters and the way Maura's relationships with all of them are evolving. Especially the relationship she has with Garda Officer Sean Murphy, The new character that captured my heart was Eveline Townsend.

Like when one of the employees has been murdered, This woman is much more alert and has a better memory than anyone thought and she knew many secrets that gave this story a few twists and turns: The mystery of the lost painting and the murder were very well plotted: I have been told Spring and Summer are the best times to visit Ireland, You can tell the author loves her setting and has researched it thoroughly. Her love for the Irish countryside just glows throughout the story. Sheila Connolly I'm not the biggest cozy fan on the planet: I often find they move too slowly and

there just isn't enough excitement for me, Here I may have finally found a cozy series/author I like, I had read #1 in the series for my bookgroup and was torn in that I loved the Irish bits but hated the clueless American heroine. Sheila Connolly This is the second book in the county cork series: An American patron comes in the pub in search of a long lost painting, She enlists Maura's help since she has managed to rub everyone in town the wrong way. I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to Leap.

As the new owner of Sullivan's Pub in County Cork Ireland Maura Donovan gets an earful of all the village gossip. But the first traveler to arrive is thirsty for more than just a pint of Guinness. Althea Melville is hot on the trail of a long-lost Van Dyck painting. Maura agrees to help Althea meet with the residents at the local manor house the most likely location of the missing art: But when the manor's gardener is found murdered Maura wonders what Althea's real motives are. She also managed her own consulting company providing genealogical research services: She was a member of Sisters in Crime New England (president 2011) the national Sisters in Crime and the fabulous on line SinC chapter the Guppies: She also belonged to Romance Writers of America and Mystery Writers of America. Sheila was Regent of her local DAR chapter and a member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants. She also managed her own consulting company providing genealogical research services. She was a member of Sisters in Crime New England (president 2011) the national Sisters in Crime and the fabulous on line SinC chapter the Guppies: She also belonged to Romance Writers of America and Mystery Writers of America. Sheila was Regent of her local DAR chapter and a member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants, In addition to genealogy Sheila loved restoring old houses visiting cemeteries and traveling, {site\_link} In this second installment of the County Cork Mysteries Bostonian Maura is beginning to feel settled in her new Irish home and as owner of an Irish Pub, She is anxious to see what kind of business she will have a the summer tourist season begins, She is on a mission to find a rare painting and she believes she may find it in County Cork the owner of Mycroft House, The clueless American has wised up the Cork countryside and people are as charming as ever and this is a smart mystery spanning generations. There's some clever art history and even a non-annoying budding romance, When an ambitious museum curator comes to town Maura gets swept up in a treasure hunt: The goal of confirming provenance for one painting while also locating another provided lots of reasons to chat with the locals, The curator Althea is a bang-on-the-nose stereotypical New York character. She wears black clothes she's impatient she's rude she takes advice from no one: and I wanted to murder her because yo! I'm from New York! The grand majority of us do not act like that. But drop us in a foreign country and have us talking to locals? Most would do leagues better than this lady: Althea was over-the-top rude to people who were being amazingly helpful: As Maura helps Althea on her quest we become privy to lots of chats. These should be the highlight of the story: teasing out family mysteries learning of a bygone age: Instead every time Maura and her cohorts make another visit we're subjected to their progress thus far, Why do WE need a recap every ten pages? All too often this brought things to a yawn-worthy standstill. There is a murder in this mystery but solving it is secondary. The focus is on chasing the art and after a while that just doesn't cut it: I've downloaded one more installment of this series from the library so I'll give it a whirl before deciding whether to abandon Maura to fend for herself, Sheila Connolly In Book Two of the County Cork series Scandal in Skibbereen we connect with Maura Donovan again as she runs the pub in Leap, The very pub she inherited from an old friend of her grandmother's, The characters from the first book rejoin us from Bridget Nolan to Old Willie. Rose the teenage daughter of Jimmy still helps out in the pub and Jimmy has not lost his attitude: An American woman Althea Melville comes into the pub early in the week and from her clothes and her demanding tone Maura concludes that she is probably from Manhattan, Soon Althea's interest is revealed and despite the entitled way she goes about making requests Maura finds herself helping the woman who is looking for a painting: A famous one at that and she immediately realizes that it might be at Mycroft House where the Townsends live. In fact Eveline Townsend an elderly woman is the only one in residence now except for her caretakers Tom and Florence O'Brien and a gardener named Seamus Daly, Harry Townsend her nephew comes down regularly though to check up on her:

An artist who also spends summers in the village Gillian Callanan joins the group that has been drawn into the mystery of the painting, On the same night that Althea arrives Seamus Daly is killed and found dead the next morning, Sean Murphy a detective begins investigating and in the ensuing pages we learn a lot more about the inhabitants of this small village and more about the art world. Solving a murder mystery and an art mystery as well was an engaging way to capture this reader, Their journey takes them from Sullivan's to the local manor house and a side trip to a Nunnery before everything is finally resolved, Sheila Connolly I wasn't a big fan of the first book in this series: So I wasn't so sure if I wanted to read the second book: This was a great book the characters really impressed me in this one, I had a very hard time putting the book down I was really interested in finding out what was going to happen next in the story. I am now looking forward to seeing what will be happening next in the series, Brought to you by OBS reviewer KaytMaura and her cast of characters of locals are fun and enjoyable: It seems in this installment of County Cork Mysteries that Maura is settling in a bit more. She also seems to be ready to take on her older staff members: I can't wait to see how much more she matures as Publican of Sullivan's Pub: The scenery and descriptions of rural Irish life are as always a great pleasure to read and live in vicariously, This is only the second in Ms Connolly's new Irish Mystery series: She also writes a Museum Mystery series and a wonderful Orchard Mystery series. I have not read the museum one but really enjoy the Orchard cozy series: This is another great new cozy series that I would recommend to not only cozy readers but anyone who enjoys a bit of Irish wit and fun in a mystery, Maura is an enjoyable main character without a lot of the normal wishy/washy attitude of some cozy leads. I can not wait for the next in this series and hope others find it a pleasure to read as I have. With no family left in America and no job Maura followed her Grandmother's wishes to go to see the country whence she and her father came: Maura is settling in with her surroundings and enjoying her Pub responsibilities. A very pushing and demanding American Althea Melville arrives at the Pub: Althea has gotten on the wrong side of the Irish with her attitude and needs help in locating a Van Dyke painting. With the help of Old Billy (an old pubcustomer) they are able to narrow down where the painting might be located: I enjoyed the banter along with the interactions and individual personalities of each character, Come along while we visit the mansion on the estate looking in all the dusty unused rooms at all the artworks plus we get to visit a nunnery: Maura Donovan is still getting used to owning both a home and a pub in Leap Ireland: And the day a pushy and rude New Yorker walks into Sullivan's Maura knows it's going to be trouble. I loved how Maura dealt with Athena who at times was just obnoxious[1]

Not far away from Maura's pub. Connolly has created some wonderful characters. Her relationship with Billy reminds me of myself so much. The location was sublime. I gave Buried in a Bog only three stars. The very home that Althea was refused entry. Maura is the new owner of a pub in Ireland. She was also the grandchild of Irish immigrants. She was also the grandchild of Irish immigrants. Althea Melville arrives from the U.S. but she is not on a pleasure trip. Seriously well done Ms Connolly. Give me more Maura Donovan! Sheila Connolly \*2.75?\* That was deeply deeply meh. But it did not provide much excitement. Sure if you push us on the subway we push back. Please stop giving us New Yorkers a bad name. We've been with her every step of the way. 4.5 stars. I am so glad I did. They felt more real to me. Sheila Connolly <http://openbooksociety.com/article/sc>. Old Billy is a hoot. She is more at home with her neighbors and bar patrons. A spattering of several other characters spice up the story. Sheila Connolly Welcome to Leap Ireland. We are stopping for a pint at Sullivan's Pub. The new owner is Maura Donovan. Maura came to Ireland after the death of her Grandmother. Once there Maura inherited the Pub. I felt the concept and setting of this book was great. Sheila Connolly 3.5 Stars I'm really liking this series. And it's faced paced which is surprising for a cozy-mystery. and the whodunnit wasn't even on my radar. On the heels of the stranger's arrival Ireland. The characters are great. The mystery was good. I hope to continue with this series. Sheila Connolly

