



The Selkie Spell

Sophie Moss

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American doctor Tara Moore wants to disappear. On the run from an abusive husband, she seeks shelter on a windswept Irish island and dismisses the villagers' speculation that she is descended from a selkie—a magical creature who is bewitching the island. But when a ghostly woman appears to her with a warning, Tara realizes it was more than chance that brought her to this island. Desperate to escape a dark and dangerous past, she struggles against a passionate attraction to handsome islander, Dominic O'Sullivan. But the enchantment of the island soon overpowers her and she falls helpless under its spell. Caught between magic and reality, Tara must find a way to wield both when a dangerous stranger from her past arrives, threatening to destroy the lives of everyone on the island.

The Selkie Spell Details

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From Reader Review The Selkie Spell for online ebook

Juliette Sobanet says

I just spent the afternoon curled up with *The Selkie Spell* and could not put it down! *The Selkie Spell* is a beautifully written novel about a young doctor who moves to a remote Irish island to escape her scary and dangerous past. She doesn't expect to fall in love with the island, or its captivating and sexy pub owner, Dominic O'Sullivan, but she soon finds out that this enchanting island escape holds even more surprises for her than unexpected love. With sweet (and steamy!) romance, a pinch of fairytale magic, and frightening suspense building on each page, this book has it all. Sophie Moss is an amazing debut novelist who took me straight to the gorgeous cliffs of Ireland without having to pay for the plane ticket! Can't wait to read her next book!

Natalie Gibson says

This is a very well written book. I won't do a plot summary - I'll talk about the seemingly effortless skill with which Sophie Moss presented this wonderful selkie story. The cover grabbed me but the first few pages tightened that grip and the story held me fast. The mix of mythology in a contemporary setting was presented in a believable and realistic way. It was like the air on Seal Island was thick with magic and the inhabitants didn't notice because they were used to it. The characters were well developed individuals but not caricatures. I want to do this book justice with a good review but honestly I just want to gush, fan-girl style. Two things struck me as I read: the rich well described setting and the excellently paced plot. The story developed naturally, not a word seemed rushed nor description overly drawn out. I would have bet money this book was written by an experienced author and published by one of the Big 6. I would have lost. Gems like this are why we should never let ourselves be swayed away from an indie book. Ms. Moss is an indie author to watch and her voice has style.

~ "The air was crisp and cool and refreshing when Tara stepped outside and she took a moment to soak in the view. She could hear men shouting over their motors down at the docs, bringing in their catch for the day. The ocean crashed turquoise over a silver beach, fading out to the Atlantic in darker blue. Sunlight sparkled, dropped like diamonds into the water. To the West, puffy clouds floated over the jagged peaks of Connemara, like rich dollops of cream. "Takes your breath away, doesn't it?" "

That it does, Sophie Moss. That it does.

Thank you for the imaginary vacation to Seal Island. It was beautiful.

Pepper Thorn says

I expected to enjoy *The Selkie Spell* but not to fall in love with it.

I am a big fan of fairytales and mythology, so even though I don't normally read romance, I couldn't resist a story set on a little Irish isle about an unresolved selkie myth. And *The Selkie Spell* delivered. The setting was beautifully described and the island's history not only fit satisfyingly within selkie lore but pulled from the larger fairy repertoire to make something new and unique. The sequences where the fairytale bleeds into

the modern day have an intoxicating fever dream quality that I loved.

But I didn't expect to care about the romance at all. Boy, was I wrong! All the characters had their own problems, issues, and lives beyond the scope of the fairytale mystery or the main romantic storyline. Everyone was likable and you understood why they cared about this possibly doomed relationship and that made you care more. Because I couldn't help caring that Tara and Dominic overcome their personal nightmares together.

April says

Coming into this I was not sure what to expect. The selkie myth is huge yet there are not a lot of books that focus it, so this was a delightful change from my usual shifters. I was also thrilled with the idea of delving into some Celtic myth.

The story here is beautifully crafted. From the very start I was enchanted and did not want to stop reading. The whole book is very much like a Selkie Siren singing her song that puts you under a charming spell. I did not want it to end and was beyond thrilled to find it is actually a series!

The story comes from a mixed narrative, mostly from the two leads POV, but also from many supporting characters. This gives you a more rounded tale and gain huge insights into the whole world. The transitions were smooth and flowed beautifully from one character to the next.

I love Tara, she has such strength and determination. She meets her match in Dominic, they are both so stubborn. You can feel the chemistry from the start and there is no surprise that these two will get together. I love it when the sparks fly! The romance here is lovely and melts your heart at times!

The story has so much more than just a romance. Everything about this sleep island town is engaging and the characters easily draw you in further. There are some great layers with the Selkie's curse and the danger following Tara. Everything combined to make an enchanting read.

I listened to the audiobook narrated by Hollis McCarthy, who does a brilliant job! She takes on many distinct voices and delivers a delicious Irish accent in the hero! She has a fantastic pace in her read that lends itself to the movement of the story. This was a perfect marriage of narrator and book! I hope she stays with the whole series if it comes to audio.

Overall, this is a dynamic read that delights the reader with beautiful prose and engaging characters. So much going on in this story but it never feels too busy. Ms Moss is also clever enough to weave in threads of the other two books characters. I am eager to see Caitlin and Glenna discover their HEA! When I accept a book to review I am always worried about how I will react. I am happy to admit I am ecstatic with this find and can not wait to read more of this charming author!

Disclosure - I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. All thoughts, opinions and ratings are my own.

Diane Reed says

The Selkie Spell is a lovely and lyrical Irish romance with a haunting ambience that clings to your heart long after you finish the last page, making you feel as though you've just taken a trip to an enchanted island! Ms. Moss' prose is carefully wrought and often stunning in its poetic beauty, and she creates characters who you can't help but feel for. However, it is her ghostly figure from the past, a Selkie woman who haunts the island and seeks to be freed from her dark curse, that most tugged at my heartstrings. Tara/Sydney, her descendent, gets caught up in the web of this legend that unknowingly impacts her life as well, and Moss weaves their stories intricately together so that their fates become inseparable and riveting. Part romance, part mystery, part fairy tale, this is a novel that takes several genres and gently threads them together for an overall satisfying read. Hopefully, Moss will continue her enchantment with the beguiling character of Glenna, whose timely "visions" and ability to charm strangers makes her a character that readers can't help but adore. A lovely debut!

Jenn says

Meh. There were things about this book that were just bad. My biggest complaints being how the author introduced periphery characters. There was a scene in the pub where several people were speaking but you knew who none of them were. 'blah, blah, blah' said Donal O'Sullivan... Who is Donal O'Sullivan? And why does his opinion matter?

There were also several instances where the POV would change within the same section of a chapter. You would be reading something from Tara's perspective then all the sudden it would be Dom's thoughts. It was confusing and annoying.

YaY! I like Selkies.

Anne Boleyn's Ghost says

The Selkie Spell didn't leave me spellbound, but it charmed me. **While the story wasn't original it still read as unique, and the writing was warm and welcoming.**

The novel follows **Tara**, an American doctor who fakes her death to escape an abusive husband and flees to a remote Irish island. She convinces the very handsome, very suspicious pub owner **Dom** to hire her as a temporary worker. Of course, temporary is anything but as she soon falls for Dom and his daughter and the quirky islanders and the island itself. They feel right to her. **They feel like home.** And who couldn't help but be intrigued by legends of Selkies and a spell that can only be lifted when the Selkie's descendent returns to the island? Hmm, I wonder who that descendent could be...

Several reviews have noted that the story and the style of *The Selkie Spell* is reminiscent of Nora Roberts. I agree in that **Moss' writing has a comforting quality, the story is infused with magic and Irish folklore and culture, and the circle of family and friends and neighbors is a key component.** But despite the magic and occasional mayhem, Nora's books are still character-driven. For a character-driven story to be successful, you must properly develop the characters. And while I'm not a fan of page after page of internal monologues or extensive use of flashbacks, I'm also not a fan of "dialogue as character development tool".

Unfortunately, *The Selkie Spell* was too driven by dialogue, at times overwhelmingly reliant upon conversation to move the story forward. As a result, I felt somewhat disconnected to the characters and less invested in their emotional journey. But at the end of the day, I was invested in the story.

I could see myself reading more of the series since I have a soft spot for Ireland (I did honeymoon there, after all) and books like warm drinks on cold days.

Read for SBTB July - September 2018 Quarterly Challenge: A book with a connection to water.

Laura says

The Selkie Spell had me under it's spell from the start. The cast of characters was amazing and it was like experiencing life on the island along with them. I loved the way Sophie wove real life issues with magical story telling- she has an incredible gift!

Jeanette says

When it comes to legends & other worldly events that go with these stories, I am not a big believer. So...in order for me to enjoy a book that includes this, it cannot be so far-fetched that it seems impossible in my reality. Sophie Moss did a wonderful job in keeping these tales within the boundaries of my almost non-existent imagination & beliefs. The story was not over-done and did not stray away from the tale being told. My favorite part of the book was being introduced to the characters who all have their own story. Even before I got halfway done I knew that there would be more books that would tell those stories. (I did not know this book was part one of a trilogy when I started reading) Sophie kept the characters involved without giving away each of their stories all in one book. That was important to me & kept me intrigued. Being of Irish descent I really enjoyed the legend and the picture that was so easily painted in my mind of such a beautiful country. Everything balanced out; not concentrating on just the love scenes, the legend or each character. The Selkie Spell was beautifully written and I look forward to book two in this trilogy.

Bella Street says

Bought this book on a whim and peeked at the first few paragraphs. Ended up staying up til 1 am to finish it! Fresh, vibrant writing and a delightful, heart-felt story that only feeds the craving to visit Ireland!

Calamus says

Sophie Moss's debut novel *The Selkie Spell* transports you to Ireland to follow American Tara Moore as she goes to Seal Island to regroup and develop a plan to evade her troubled past. This mystical romance starts slowly, but charms you with the misty island and the tight-knit community that believes Tara is the descendant of a selkie – a legendary creature who lives as a seal but transforms to a human on land. The

darker themes found in fairy tales are revisited as you are introduced to Tara's foe and the legend of Seal Island's selkie as she finds love and friends to help set her free.

While I am usually immediately drawn into stories of old legends and fairy tales set in modern day, I did have trouble connecting with the main character at first. Eventually this connection did develop as Tara made her own connections with the islanders and more about her past was disclosed. Some experiences, for example her tumultuous relationship with her husband, were portrayed in a rather cold manner but the more fantastical elements really brought the magic of the selkie, and the story, to life.

Positively, I could not stop reading without wondering what happens next. As Tara's past caught up with her I was swept up in the story to the point where I almost missed my bus stop. As the tale ended I found myself smiling in satisfaction and fondly picturing the shores of Seal Island.

Sophie Moss should be proud of her first book and I look forward to seeing her storytelling develop further in the last two books of the Seal Island Trilogy. You can find both books on Amazon. Barnes & Noble carries book two, The Selkie Enchantress.

www.calamusworks.com

Crystal Cook says

I've been in a serious reading drought lately. Nothing I've picked up has held my interest. Not because the books were bad, it's just that nothing 'clicked' with me that made me want to stay up all night reading, instead of painting, to finish it. But, the drought is over, this is that book!

I really, really enjoyed this book. The characters felt very real to me, I loved the chemistry between Tara and Dominic, I LOVED the setting (I've always wanted to go to Ireland), and the selkie legend is one of my very favorites. I'm always on the lookout for any book that might have a new twist on it.

I think this book had a perfect blend of fantasy mixed with reality, it's a great urban fantasy. I thought the plot flowed very smoothly, I literally could not put it down and finished it in one day!

I'm very excited to see what Sophie writes next. I have a feeling that I just may have stumbled across the next 'big' author. :))))

Confessions of 2 Book Lovers Blog (Co2BL) says

Lindsay: This book wasn't a typical book for us because we didn't actually read the book...

Nikki: You can't say that!

Lindsay: What?

Nikki: You're telling them we didn't read the book! That's a lie! We did!

Lindsay: Lol. If you'd have let me finish, I would have said, we didn't read the book, we **LISTENED** to it.

Nikki: Oh. My bad. Proceed. :)

Lindsay: Nikki, what did you think of The Selkie Spell?

Nikki: It was great! The end... Wow that was fast! I thought it was pretty original, and interesting and though it did have a few slow times, it was also captivating.

Lindsay: I agree, this was good. I've read a few other Selkie stories in the past but they're not as common as vampires or werewolves. But this was original because the Selkie was a legend.

Nikki: Well, I've never heard of Selkies until this one so, I thought it was pretty cool. Plus the fact that it was a legend gave it that extra umph of originality. And I love Irish accents ;)

Lindsay: Oh *swooning* me too. I could listen to a hot Irishman talk all day. Too bad we didn't have an actual hot Irishman to listen to.

Nikki: She was pretty good though. She did try to do the different accents. Her voice was strong and she enunciated well. And she did the Texas Drawl verra well ;)

Lindsay: Lol. She did do a good job.

Nikki: And while the story was really good, I think the ending was the best! I love a good lead in to the next book and after the way Liam looked at Caitlin I can't wait to read their story!

Lindsay: I agree with you! I loved the tension and chemistry between them. I can't wait to see what happens between them!

Nikki: Overall, this was an enjoyable book and definitely worth reading or listening too.

Marissa Ames says

Sophie Moss takes an obscure Irish fairytale and waves it into a modern romance without sounding silly.

I tore through this book in three days, and really enjoyed it. Since I don't own a Kindle, I downloaded the free desktop app from Amazon and read it while sitting at my computer.

Good points: This novel addresses problems that the romance genre is often criticized over. Sophie uses strong, respectful men as protagonists, crafting characters that are still manly and not weak. The antagonists

are the abusive jerks. You never see Dominic throwing Tara around, calling her names, belittling her. In the beginning, he is turned off by her secretive nature... if he wasn't, I'd have to discredit the work as unrealistic. The women are proactive... they're the heroes! Just about all of the "saving" is done by either women or another entity that I won't name because it would be a spoiler. Dominic tries to save Tara, but in the end she isn't "saved by a man." Again, I'm trying really hard not to throw too many spoilers in here.

Bad points: (Come on, every work has criticisms.) A lot of my friends want a squeaky-clean read. This work drops the F-bomb a few times, but only used by the antagonist. There are two sex scenes, but they're tasteful and not explicit, and they're very respectful of both the female and male protagonists. And though some friends don't want ANY love scenes, these are clean and mild compared to nearly any romance novel out there that isn't in the "young adult" section. Also, I found Tara to be a little unsympathetic at first. This is very understandable, considering the author needed to portray that she ran from her past, using a different name and lying to everyone she met. As I think about ways Ms. Moss could have portrayed that with a more sympathetic character, I haven't yet thought of an alternative.

Would I recommend this work? Well, to the friends who emphatically don't want any cursing or love scenes, I'd feel obligated to warn them. But it's not smut, it doesn't lean on the love scenes to carry the book. To anyone else who likes a good romance read... definitely give this a read!

Collin Shea says

I struggled a bit over what rating to give this book (one of the first I've read on my Kindle Fire) and realized that I wish Goodreads offered the ability to give ratings based on a few different criteria. For example, I would give this book 3 or 3.5 stars for concept, probably 1.5 stars for complexity of writing and language, 3 stars for entertainment level and ability to hold my attention (I did finish it, after all), 2 stars if I were being objective (or as objective as possible), and 3 stars if I were considering my personal interest in the Irish setting and folklore. Okay, so maybe that's a bit too many criteria, but you understand my meaning.

I was very excited about the concept of this book as I started reading, because I love the Irish folklore of selkies. The thing that turned me off the most about this book was when it strayed into Harlequin-Romance-style love scenes. It's not easy to write a love/sex scene that's not too over-the-top mushy and unfortunately, this writer did not accomplish it.

Overall, I enjoyed it enough to finish reading and it was an easy read for over the holidays when there were lots of other distractions going on around me. Would I recommend it as worth the time when there are so many other books to be read? Not likely.
