



Home Sweet Road

Anthony St. Clair

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As falls Ireland, so falls the world.

An ordinary woman hides extraordinary secrets from two men who are not what they seem—but neither is she.

Aisling's grandmother was the most famous Awen of Ireland, but Aisling never knew that until she returned home from her travels, said her good-byes over the old protector's grave, and learned from Jake Connemara that she was now Awen. No one has yet tried to steal the three relics under her protection, which combined are said to give the possessor the power to control the world. But when two strange backpackers arrive in Clifden, Aisling's life and the fate of world rest on one moment.

Tiran and Jay became friends the moment they started talking on the bus to Clifden, but when they meet Aisling, rivalry threatens that new friendship. Jake, bartender at The Salt and Crane, tells Aisling a long-lost, ancient, more powerful relic is rumored to have been stolen from The Blast Memorial—the same day Jay and Tiran were there.

The time of Aisling's test has come. If she fails, Ireland falls. And if Ireland falls, one of these men will bring the world to a terrible fate.

Guru Deep Says: "The hills of the Twelve Bens whisper long-lost secrets that pass through the town of Clifden and sail their dreams and messages across the Atlantic Ocean to the rest of the world. Located at Ireland's western edge, Clifden is the unofficial capital of Connemara. A little over an hour's drive from New Galway, on your way you'll meander through scenic boglands, and you can visit The Blast Memorial in the ruins of Galway. An Irish legend speaks of great power and otherworldly beings in Clifden, but today's globetrotter comes to hike the Twelve Bens and to enjoy the hospitality of the Eighth Wonder of the World Hostel. Be sure to visit The Salt and Crane for an Irish breakfast, the best pint of Galway Pradesht Stout west of Dublin, and the daily (and nightly) live music sessions."

— *Ireland Through the Third Eye*

Home Sweet Road is a novella in the Rucksack Universe series, the exciting travel fantasy world of wit, adventure and beer that fans call "buoyant with a unique humor, twist and focus on international travel," and "perfect for fans of Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman."

Home Sweet Road Details

Date : Published 2014 by Rucksack Press

ISBN : 9781940119069

Author : Anthony St. Clair

Format : Paperback 156 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Travel, Fiction

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From Reader Review Home Sweet Road for online ebook

Jess says

A great novella. Looking forward to Forever The Road.

Joy Smith says

I enjoyed this tale of magical relics and their guardians set in Ireland--and the Rucksack Universe. It's an intriguing premise, and I liked Aisling, the Awen of Ireland--and Jake, another guardian, and The Management; and the changing sign was fun. Oh, and maybe the angry mountain. What is its problem?! I'm still a little confused about that, but not as confused as Aisling was about it--and the two travelers. She was attracted to both, though she decided to drive one away... The story slowed down a bit as she vacillated. She could have used a few clues because the relics she was supposed to be guarding kept disappearing. The ending is suspenseful and a bit of a cliffhanger, but not as annoying as some I've fallen over. I am curious as to what happens next. And I miss the angry mountain. I hope it turns up again.

Bonnie says

I'm biased, I know, but I really enjoyed reading this novella (and I read it more than once, as a beta reader for the author.) Anthony's got an amazing sense of the epic, and each of the stories in the Rucksack Universe keeps building on the groundwork that came before. There's a lot of long play being worked out through the stories and I just can't wait to see how it all weaves together and falls into place.

Molokov says

A slightly longer novella than the Martini of Destiny, this story develops the Rucksack Universe a bit more with a wonderful new central character. It's a story that's small in scope but deep in mystery, character and adventure. It's a delight to watch it unfold.

Vidya Ananthanarayanan says

Anthony St. Clair's rucksack travels from the alleys of Hong Kong to the "soft, green-brown hills of the Twelve Bens" of Ireland in this thrilling novella where he introduces us to Aisling, the Awen of Ireland. The one woman who stands between three powerful ancient relics and two men, one of whom would take them. Will she succumb to heart or to duty? As is his wont and strength, Anthony seamlessly combines quirk, wit, travel, and magic in this tale of power, greed, ego, and love that features marvelously evocative writing that makes you want to hunt down some stout and an Irish breakfast. A wonderful and most enjoyable addition to the Rucksack Universe!

Lois Donaghy says

A page turner from the first one. Anthony's characters get more interesting as I continue this journey through the Rucksack Universe. This novella gives us a deeper look into this world of power and intrigue. Where will the travels take us next?

Joe says

A bartender named Jake and a hostel owner named Aisling who aren't who they seem on the surface and two travelers that are a bit of a mystery find themselves thrown together in Clifden, a village in Ireland. Weird things from a mountain out of place to accidental fires lead our main characters to suspect our travelers of ill doing. The second book in the Rucksack Universe grabs your attention and doesn't let go. The story fills the need for more after reading The Martini of Destiny while getting you excited to find out what happens next to our travelers. Once again Mr. St. Clair crafts a great story that is easy to read, wildly entertaining, and full of imagination.

Shelly Reddinger says

Aisling lives in Ireland in a small town named Clifden. She grew there and traveling the world before returning home to take on her duties as the Awen. She's lead a fairly normal and uneventful life since returning to Clifden. She runs a hostel and has a normal life though she is lonely.

Two travelers arrive into town together. Aishling first sees and meets them at the local pub. She is instantly intrigued by the travelers and they both get cots at her hostel. Once the travels arrive things start taking a turn for the interesting and it's not longer lonely or normal for Aisling.

Aisling is the Awen and she is in charge of guarding some very special relics. Through out her life she will be tested to ensure she is still doing her duty as the Awen. When the travelers come to town things get very interesting. Aisling believes this is her test and that is failing it. The mountain is not happy with her and she is frustrated at trying to figure out how to pass the test.

Will Aisling pass the test in time?

This is a very entertaining fantasy book full of twists and turns. A very refreshing read that you will read through quickly because it's so good.
