

## Chapter 1 : Legendary Fictions of the Irish Celts: Pursuit of Diarmuid and Grainne

*The Pursuit of Diarmuid and Gráinne (Irish: TÁraigeacht Dhiarmada agus Ghráinne or TÁraíocht Dhiarmada agus Ghráinne in modern spelling) is an Irish prose narrative surviving in many variants.*

Grainne was said to have been the most beautiful woman in Ireland. Eligible Princes and Chieftains travelled to meet and court Grainne, including the Chief Fionn MacCool, who was ageing, but had set his sights on the young Grainne as his second wife. Fionn asked Grainne to marry him, she agreed and a magnificent feast was set up to celebrate the newly engaged couple. The young Grainne was determined to go to any lengths to get her man, so she plotted to drug the entire group, apart from the object of her affections, Diarmuid. When she got Diarmuid all to herself, Grainne confessed her love for him, but Diarmuid did not want to get involved, stating that he was loyal and did not want to betray his leader Fionn. The couple ran away together but were chased by a very angry and humiliated Fionn and his band of men. The couple were chased across the whole of Ireland – they sheltered and hid in caves, hideouts and trees. To this day local folklore and legend will tell of places that were said to have harbored the eloping Diarmuid and Grainne. Fionn and his men finally began to get closer to the couple. Diarmuid and Grainne were traveling across Benbulbin in County Sligo when a giant boar suddenly came on the attack. Diarmuid had been told years before that the only thing that would harm him was that very thing – a wild boar. The boar charged and Diarmuid, in attempt to protect the pregnant Grainne, wrestled the wild animal to the ground, attempting to fight it to the death. He heroically drove his sword in to the boar, killing it, but the boar had also gored him, causing a fatal injury. Fionn and his men jubilantly came towards the couple but found a dying Diarmuid lying in the arms of Grainne. She knew that there was only one way to save the father of her unborn child. She begged Fionn to show mercy on them and save Diarmuid by giving him a drink of water by cupping it in his hands. Fionn refused, not willing to forgive Diarmuid or Grainne. He threatened to kill him and Fionn finally agreed to help Diarmuid. However, it was too late – before Fionn was able to get the water, Diarmuid had died and there ends the most tragic but romantic tale. Posted on October 10, Leave a Comment Please note that all boxes below are required. Your email address will not be published.

## Chapter 2 : Diarmuid and Gráinne - Irish Mythology

*Long ago in Ireland, in the time of the Fianna, one of the greatest and most famous warriors under Finn mac Cumhaill's leadership was named Diarmuid O'Duibhne.. Diarmuid was the son of a man named Donn, and he was raised with his half-brother, the son of a man named Roc.*

Grainne is such a one. She, like Aine, was honored at the summer solstice and the first grain harvest of early August with bonfires and torchlit processions on top of her sacred hill at Leinster, Ireland. Remnants of these festivals are still found in folk ritual today. Grainne is a part of the triple goddess formed by Herself and Her two sisters, Fenne and Aine. Both Grainne and Aine were beautiful, golden-haired goddesses who visited their fields and hilltops to protect and nurture the land, people and animals. A Sun Goddess and master herbalist, Grainne rules herbs, knowledge, the sun, and fire. Call on Grainne for help with the conscious expression of your dreams and desires. Grainne leads the way to growth, health and personal power. Grainne is best known from the tenth century elopement story of Diarmaid and Grainne which echoes an earlier proto-Celtic story in which Grainne, the bright Sun Goddess, embraced the darkness with her love of Donn, God of the Underworld. Their union brought together the duality of opposites through love. Their union brought the gift of grain to the people. His companions suggested Grainne, the most beautiful woman in Ireland. In an older version of the story Grainne tried to avoid marriage to the older Finn by setting him an impossible task. In newer versions she accepted the offer merely as a marriage of convenience. But in either case, at the pre-wedding feast, Grainne began to cast her eyes about, hoping to find one who would warm her heart in a way that the aging warrior did not. He was known for more than his fighting skills. He was also called the master and charmer of women, for he had been born with a magical spot, the Bol Sherca, in the middle of his forehead that caused all who saw it to fall in love with him. Diarmaid, wanting to avoid trouble, tried to hide the spot by covering it with his hair. As Grainne continued to look around the room, her eyes fell on Diarmaid at the exact moment that he tossed back his head, revealing the magic spot. Instantly She fell in love, resolving to run away with him. Grainne gave a sleeping draught to everyone with the exception of Diarmaid and three of his friends. First she asked those three if they would go with her. Diarmaid, though loath to betray Finn, could not violate his geis. So the two left together with Finn soon in pursuit. What better aide could a fleeing couple hope for? He gave the safety of his protective cloak and advised them which paths to follow. The two lived roughly, taking shelter in great beds of stone all the while pursued by Finn. As legends grow with time, these stone beds became known as spots which could endow fertility on barren women and cement love between lovers. Much time passed in this way. Diarmaid refused to make love to Grainne, wanting to remain loyal to Finn. He always left raw meat at their stone beds as a token of his abstinence. But finally her taunting convinced him and the two came together in love. The chase continued for many years during which the couple had four sons and a daughter. Finally Aengus negotiated peace between Finn and the lovers. Grainne and Diarmaid were able to settle down and raise their family. A few years later Diarmaid was gored by a wild boar while hunting with Finn. Some versions of the story recount that Grainne mourned Diarmaid for the rest of her life. Others say that she reconciled with Finn and married him. When Grainne calls your name, know that you have the power to make your own choices, to claim your sovereignty. Trust that your soul choices, though sometimes difficult, will bring abundance. Feel the truth of the unity from which our world of duality springs; the unity of dark and light.

**Chapter 3 : Diarmuid - Meaning of Name Diarmuid - Pronounce Diarmuid Irish Boy Name**

*Grainne, was the most beautiful woman in Ireland, she was also the daughter of Cormac MacAirt, the High King of Ireland. Grainne was courted by Ireland's most eligible, Princes and Chieftains, including the now ageing chief Fionn MacCool, who wanted the young maid as his second wife.*

Oisín spoke, and what he said was: The king of Erin chanced to be holding a gathering and a muster before them upon the plain of Tara, and the chiefs and the great nobles of his people were with him. A friendly welcome was given to Oisín and Diarmuid, and the gathering was then put off until another day, for the king was certain that it was upon some pressing matters that those two had come to him. Afterwards Oisín called the king of Erin to one side, and told him that it was to ask of him the marriage of his daughter for Finn mac Cumáil that they themselves were then come. Cormac spoke, and what he said was: Thereafter Oisín and Diarmuid arrived again at Almu, where they found Finn and the fíán, and they told them their news from beginning to end. Now as every thing wears away, so also did that space of time; and then Finn collected and assembled the seven battalions of the standing fíán from every quarter where they were, and they came where Finn was, in Almu the great and broad of Leinster; and on the last day of that period of time they went forth in great bands, in troops, and in impetuous fierce impenetrable companies, and we are not told how they fared until they reached Tara. There sat there a druid and a skilful man of knowledge of the people of Finn before Grainne the daughter of Cormac; that is, Daire Duanach mac Morna; and it was not long before there arose gentle talking and mutual discourse between himself and Grainne. The handmaid brought the goblet, and Grainne filled the goblet forthwith, and it contained the drink of nine times nine men. Finn took the goblet, and no sooner had he drunk a draught out of it than there fell upon him a stupor of sleep and of deep slumber. Cormac took the draught and the same sleep fell upon him, and Eitche, the wife of Cormac, took the goblet and drank a draught out of it, and the same sleep fell upon her as upon all the others. Then Grainne called the attendant handmaid to her, and said to her: When Grainne saw that they were in a state of drunkenness and of trance, she rose fairly and softly from the seat on which she was, and spoke to Oisín, and what she said was: It happened that the game was going against the son of Lugaid, and thou didst rise and stand, and tookest his burly-stick from the next man to thee, and didst throw him to the ground and to the earth, and thou wentest into the game, and didst win the goal three times upon Cairhre and upon the warriors of Tara. I Was at that time in my bower of the clear view, of the blue windows of glass, gazing upon thee; and I turned the light of mine eyes and of my sight upon thee that day, and I never gave that love to any other man from that time to this, and will not for ever. After that Diarmuid arose and stood, and stretched forth his active warrior hand over his broad weapons, and took leave and farewell of Oisín and of the chiefs of the fíán; and not bigger is a smooth-crimson whortleberry than was each tear that Diarmuid shed from his eyes at parting with his people. Then Diarmuid spoke, and what he said was: And Diarmuid spoke to Grainne, and said: It is not told how they fared until they arrived at Doire Da Both, in the midst of Clan Ricard; and Diarmuid cut down the grove around him, and made to it seven doors of wattles, and he settled a bed of soft rushes and of the tops of the birch under Grainne in the very midst of that wood. As for Finn mac Cumáil, I will tell his tidings clearly. All that were in Tara rose at early morn on the morrow, and they found Diarmuid and Grainne wanting from among them, and a burning jealousy and rage seized upon Finn. He found his trackers before him on the plain, that is the Clan Neamuin, and he bade them follow Diarmuid and Grainne. Then they carried the track as far as Beul Atha Luain, and Finn and the fíán of Erin followed them; but they could not follow the track over across the ford, so that Finn pledged his word that if they followed not the track out speedily, he would hang them on either side of the ford. Then the Clan Neamuin went up to the stream, and found a horse on either side of the stream; and they went a mile with the stream westward, and found the track by the side of the province of Connacht, and Finn and the fíán of Erin followed them. Then spoke Finn, and what he said was: Then Diarmuid sprang out of his sleep, and awoke Grainne also, and said to her: Then Oisín the son of Finn spoke and said: Now Feargoir was so, that every shout he gave used to be heard in the three nearest districts to him. Then they made him give three shouts, in order that Diarmuid might hear him. Diarmuid heard Feargoir, and

awoke Grainne out of her sleep, and what he said was: As for Finn, I will tell his tidings clearly. He did not abandon the chase until he reached Doire Da Both, and he sent the tribe of Emain to search out the wood, and they saw Diarmuid and a woman by him. They returned back again where were Finn and the fian of Erin, and Finn asked of them whether Diarmuid or Grainne were in the wood. And with which of us, O Diarmuid, is the truth, with myself or with Oscar? Thereupon Diarmuid rose up and gave Grainne three kisses in the presence of Finn and of the fian, so that a burning of jealousy and rage seized Finn upon seeing that, and he said that Diarmuid should give his head for those kisses. Then he went unknown to Finn or to the fian of Erin to the place wherein were Diarmuid and Grainne, and he greeted Diarmuid, and what he said was: After Angus and Grainne had departed from Diarmuid, he arose as a straight pillar and stood upright, and girded his arms and his armor and his various sharp weapons about him. After that he drew near to one of the seven wattled doors that there were in the enclosure, and asked who was at it. He looked back upon them and proclaimed to them that he had passed them, and slung his shield upon the broad arched expanse of his back, and so went straight westward; and he was not long in going out of sight of Finn and of the fian. Then when he saw that they followed him not, he turned back where he had seen Angus and Grainne departing out of the wood, and he followed them by their track, holding a straight course, until he reached Ros Da Soileach. He found Angus and Grainne there in a warm well-lighted hut, and a great wide-flaming fire kindled before them, with half a wild boar upon spits. Diarmuid greeted them, and the very life of Grainne all but fled out through her mouth with joy at meeting Diarmuid. Diarmuid told them his tidings from beginning to end; and they ate their meal that night, and Diarmuid and Grainne went to sleep together until the day came with its full light on the morrow. Angus arose early, and what he said to Diarmuid was: And in whatever place thou shalt cook thy meal, there eat it not; and in whatever place thou shalt eat, there sleep not; and in whatever place thou shalt sleep, there rise not on the morrow. Then Diarmuid and Grainne journeyed with the Shannon on their right hand westward until they reached Garb Aba of the Fian, which is now called Leaman; and Diarmuid killed a salmon on the bank of the Leaman, and put it on a spit to broil. Then he himself and Grainne went over across the stream to eat it, as Angus had told them; and they went thence westward to sleep. Then Diarmuid greeted that youth, and asked tidings of him. Then he nevertheless took Diarmuid and Grainne upon his back and bore them over across the stream. They journeyed forth westward until they reached the Beith, and when they had reached the stream Muadan did likewise with them, and they went into a cave of the earth at the side of Currach Cinn Admuid, over Tonn Toime; and Muadan dressed a bed of soft rushes and of birch-tops for Diarmuid and Grainne in the further part of that cave. He himself went into the next wood to him, and plucked in it a straight long rod of a quicken tree; and he put a hair and a hook upon the rod, and put a holly berry upon the hook, and went and stood over the stream, and caught a fish that cast. He put on a second berry, and caught a second fish; and he put up a third berry, and caught a third fish. He then put the hook and the hair under his girdle, and the rod into the earth, and took his three fish with him to where Diarmuid and Grainne were, and put the fish upon spits. When they were broiled Muadan said: They ate their meal that night, and Diarmuid and Grainne went to sleep in the further part of the cave, and IVluadan kept watch and ward for them until the day arose with its full light on the morrow. Diarmuid arose early, and made Grainne sit up; and told her to keep watch for Muadan, and that he himself would go to walk the country. Diarmuid went his way, and went upon the top of the nearest hill to him, and he stood gazing upon the four quarters around him; that is, eastward and westward, southward and northward. He had not been a long time there before he saw a great swift fleet, and a fearful company of ships, coming towards the land straight from the west; and the course that the people of the fleet took in coming to land was to the foot of the hill upon which was Diarmuid. Nine times nine of the chieftains of that fleet came ashore, and Diarmuid went to ask tidings of them; and he greeted them and inquired of them news, of what land or what country they were. Also we have three savage hounds, and we will loose them upon his track, and it will be but a short time before we get tidings of him; fire burns them not, water drowns them not, and weapons do not wound them; and we ourselves number twenty hundreds of stout stalwart men, and each man of us is a man commanding a hundred. After that Diarmuid lifted the tun and took it to the top of the hill, and he himself mounted upon it, and rolled it down the steep of the hill until it reached the lower part of it, and he rolled the tun up the hill again, and he did that feat three times in the presence of

the strangers, and remained himself upon the tun as it both came and went. They said that he was one that had never seen a good feat, seeing that he called that a feat; and with that one of them got upon the tun. Diarmuid gave the tim a kick, and the stranger fell to the ground before ever the tim began to roll; and the tun rolled over that young warrior, so that it caused his bowels and his entrails to come out about his feet. Thereupon Diarmuid followed the tun and brought it up again, and a second man mounted upon it. When Diarmuid saw that, he gave it a kick, and the first man had not been more speedily slain than was the second. Diarmuid urged the tun up again, and the third man mounted upon it; and he too was slain like the others. Diarmuid went to his own people, and Muadan put his hair and his hook upon his rod, and caught three salmon. He stuck the rod into the ground, and the hair under his girdle, and took the fish to Diarmuid and Grainne, and they ate their meal that night; and Muadan dressed a bed under Diarmuid and under Grainne in the further part of the cave, and he went himself to the door of the cave to keep watch and ward for them until the clear bright day arose on the morrow. Diarmuid arose at early day and beaming dawn on the morrow, and roused Grainne, and told her to watch while Muadan slept. Then Diarmuid rose with a light, bird-like bound, so that he descended from above upon the javelin, and came down fairly and cunningly off it, having neither wound nor cut upon him. Diarmuid drew the javelin out and placed it standing the second time; and the second man of them arose to do the feat, and he too was slain like the other. And they went to their ships. And Diarmuid went to Muadan and Grainne, and Muadan brought them the fish of that night, and Diarmuid and Grainne slept by each other that night. Then he himself rose exceeding lightly over it, and thrice measured the sword by paces from the hilt to its point, and he came down and asked if there was a man of them who could perform that feat. Then a second man rose, and as he descended from above he chanced to fall crossways upon the sword, so that there were two portions made of him. In like manner, there had not fallen more of the people of the foreigners of the Sea of Wight on the two days before that, than there fell upon that day. Diarmuid rose at early dawn of the morning, and girt about him his suit of battle and of conflict; under which, through which, or over which, it was not possible to wound him; and he took the Moralltach, that is, the sword of Angus of the Brug, at his left side; which sword left no stroke nor blow unfinished at the first trial. After that Diarmuid roused Grainne, and bade her keep watch and ward for Muadan, saying that he himself would go to view the four quarters around him. When Grainne beheld Diarmuid, brave and daring, clothed in his suit of anger and of battle, fear and great dread seized her, for she knew that it was for a combat and an encounter that he was so equipped; and she asked of him what he intended to do. Then he drew near to the host of the foreigners, and began to slaughter and to attack them heroically and with swift valor. Diarmuid returned back having no cut nor wound, and went his way till he reached Muadan and Grainne. They gave him welcome, and Grainne asked him whether he had received any word of the tidings of Finn mac Cumail and of the fian of Erin. He said that he had not, and they ate their food and their meat that night. Diarmuid rose at early day and beaming dawn on the morrow, and halted not until he had reached the aforesaid hill, and having gotten there he struck his shield mightily and soundingly, so that he caused the shore to tremble with the noise around him. Then said the foreign chief Dub-cosach that he would himself go to fight with Diarmuid, and straightway went ashore. Then he and Diarmuid rushed upon one another like wrestlers, making mighty and ferocious efforts, straining their arms and their swollen sinews, as it were two savage oxen, or two frenzied bulls, or two raging lions, or two fearless hawks on the edge of a cliff. And this is the form and fashion of the hot, sore, fearful strife that took place betwixt them. Then each gave the other a violent mighty twist; but Diarmuid hove Dub-cosach upon his shoulder, and hurled his body to the earth, and bound him firm and fast upon the spot. Afterwards came Finn-cosach and Tren-cosach to combat with him, one after the other; and he bound them with the same binding, and said that he would take their heads from them, were it not that he had rather leave them in those bonds to increase their torments: As for Diarmuid, he went to look for Muadan and for Grainne; and they ate their meal and their meat that night, and Diarmuid and Grainne went to sleep, and Muadan kept watch and ward for them until morning. Diarmuid rose and told Grainne that their enemies were near them; and he told her the tale of the strangers from beginning to end, how three fifties of their people had fallen three days one after the other by his feats, and how fifteen hundred of their host had fallen on the fourth day by the fury of his hand, and how he had bound the three chiefs on the fifth day. Nevertheless Finn will shortly get tidings of

them, and that will sting his heart in his bosom; and we must depart out of this cave lest Finn and the deadly hounds overtake us. Grainne began to weary then, and Muadan took her upon his back until they reached the great Sliab Luachra. Then Diarmuid sat him down on the brink of the stream which wound through the heart of the mountain; and Grainne was washing her hands, and she asked Diarmuid for his dagger to cut her nails. As for the strangers, as many of them as were alive, they came upon the hill where the three chiefs were bound and thought to loose them speedily, but those bonds were such that they only drew the tighter upon them. They had not been long thus before they saw the woman messenger of Finn mac Cumail coming with the speed of a swallow, or weasel, or like a blast of a sharp pure-swift wind, over the top of every high hill and bare mountain towards them; and she inquired of them who it was that had made that great, fearful, destroying slaughter of them. As for them, they followed the hounds upon the track of Diarmuid until they reached the door of the cave, and they went into the hinder part of the cave, and found the bed of Diarmuid and Grainne there. Afterwards they went their way towards the west till they reached the Carrthach, and thence to the moor of Finnliath, and to Garb Aba of the Fian, which is called Leaman now, and to the fair plain of Concon, and to the vast and high Sliab Luachra. Howbeit, Diarmuid did not perceive them coming after him in that pursuit until he beheld the banners of soft silk, and the threatening standards, and three mighty warriors in the forefront of the hosts, full fierce, and bold, and dauntless, having their three deadly hounds by three chains in their hands.

**Chapter 4 : Grainne, Sun Goddess/Winter Queen - PaganSquare - PaganSquare - Join the conversation!**

*Grainne, known as the most beautiful woman in Ireland was also the daughter of Cormac MacAirt, the High King of Ireland. Eligible Princes and Chieftains travelled to meet and court Grainne, including the Chief Fionn MacCool, who was ageing, but had set his sights on the young Grainne as his second wife.*

Diarmuid was the son of a man named Donn, and he was raised with his half-brother, the son of a man named Roc. Donn squeezed the child between his thighs until he died. Then he performed a magical ceremony, and brought his son back to life in the body of a wild boar. The love and loyalty he had for Finn Mac Cumhaill was very strong, but Diarmuid was known for more than his fighting skills. He was a great favourite among women, being very beautiful, and he was born with the Bol Sherca in the middle of his forehead. This was a magical spot that made anyone who saw it fall in love with him. Diarmuid knew that this could cause all sorts of trouble, so he grew his hair down over his forehead to cover it, and tried to keep it out of sight. Finn Mac Cumhaill was getting on in years, but was still the greatest warrior in all Ireland. He held onto his place as the head of the Fianna, but he was aware that someday, the years would start to tell, even on him. Every year on his birthday, he undertook to leap across a great chasm, because he would rather die as soon as his strength began to fail him, than to live on and slowly decline. Finn loved all the finest things in life; feasting, storytelling, hunting and good company; and he decided that he had been too long without a wife. So he called his men together and asked for their advice on the matter. When she was twelve years old, she had seen a boy playing hurling, and the wind had blown his hair back from his face, and she had fallen in love with him, completely and irrevocably. And as the years passed, she had refused every man who had ever asked for her hand, for love of the boy on the hurling field. But when she heard that the great Finn Mac Cumhaill was asking for her hand, she was flattered. She decided that she had spent long enough waiting for this boy, and she did not know his name or where to find him, so she might as well marry Finn. When her answer was given, a great feast was held to celebrate the upcoming wedding. She wondered why Finn had asked for her for himself, and not for his son, and she began to regret her decision. And then Finn moved out of the way, and she saw the man seated on the other side of him: The boy from the hurling field who she had loved since she was twelve. She gave it to Finn, and to all of the Fianna, apart from the leaders of the Fianna. Then, one by one, she asked each of the leaders of the Fianna if they would run away with her. They all refused, such was their loyalty to Finn. He had never betrayed Finn, and never wanted to, but he could not go against a geasa put on him by a woman. She told him that she was going to ready herself, and went to her chambers, and while she was gone, Diarmuid consulted with the other leaders of the Fianna. Even though it meant tearing his heart in two, and leaving one half of it with Finn Mac Cumhaill, he could not break a geasa. Instead, she put him under a geasa to go and find horses for them, and he had no choice but to do as she asked. He told them that they were never going to be able to sleep in a cave with one opening, or a house with one door, or a tree with one branch, and that they would never be able to eat where they cooked, or sleep where they ate. They would have to keep moving if they were to stay ahead of Finn and the Fianna. When Finn Mac Cumhaill awoke the next day from the sleeping potion, and realized what had happened, his heart broke. He set out with a grimness and a set in his jaw to catch them up and get his revenge. For a long time he chased them, and they were always one step ahead. She said to Diarmuid that whatever courage he might have in battle, that splash of water had more courage than he. And Diarmuid was shamed into making her his wife, and after that he left no messages of purity for Finn. One night, they slept in a house with seven doors, and Finn and the Fianna caught up with them. Diarmuid went to each door in turn, and at each door, the man who guarded it offered to let him go, till he came to the seventh door, guarded by Finn Mac Cumhaill. Roaring in anger, Finn told him he would kill him if he came out that door. Diarmuid opened the door to face him, and took to the fight. Later that year, Diarmuid got permission from a giant to hunt on his land, provided he did not eat any of the magical rowan berries that grew on the tree where the giant lived. They decided the berries would be easier to get, so they set out, but of course, they found the giant slain and many of the berries missing. Finn had a good idea that Diarmuid was still up there. He challenged Oisín to a game of chess, and as Oisín began to make a move that

would lead to Finn beating him, a berry dropped onto the square that he should move to. He made the move, and continued to follow the guidance of the rowan berries. Eventually, Oisín beat his father at chess for the very first time. Finn agreed to put his anger aside, and welcomed them back with a great feast. They were finally able to settle down with their family and live in peace, and Diarmuid and Finn rebuilt their great friendship. Some years later, Finn asked Diarmuid to go hunting with him. They came across a terrible beast: They tracked it through the wilds, and when they cornered it at last, the boar ran straight for Diarmuid. It was the son of Roc, who had been killed so many years before, and it had to fulfil the geasa to kill the son of Donn. Finn saw the beast charging at him, and reminded Diarmuid of his geasa, to never pierce the skin of a pig. The boar gored Diarmuid, and Diarmuid hit it on the head with the hilt of his sword, killing it. But it was too late, and Diarmuid lay dying. He asked Finn Mac Cumhaill to give him a drink of water from his hands. Anyone who drank water from the hands of Finn Mac Cumhaill would be restored to health, because of his magical thumb. The third time he went back for water, and there was no bitterness left in him.

**Chapter 5 : The Tales of Diarmad and of Gráinne - Athenry History Archive**

*PURSUIT OF DIARMAID AND GRAINNE. Diarmuid was unhappily gifted with a ball seirce (beauty spot) on his shoulder, and Grainne, catching sight of it while sitting at the window of her Grianan (sunny chamber) while looking at him hurling, could no more avoid loving him than hapless Phaedra, her stepson Hippolytus.*

Told by an old man in Bowmore, Islay, Alexander Macalister. The nobles and great gentles of the Feinne were gathered to the wedding. A great feast was made, and the feast lasted seven days and seven nights; and when the feast was past, their own feast was made for the hounds. Diarmaid was a truly fine man, and there was, BALL SEIRC, a love spot, on his face, and he used to keep his cap always down on the beauty spot; for any woman that might chance to see the ball seirce, she would be in love with him. The dogs fell out roughly, and the heroes of the Feinn went to drive them from each other, and when Diarmaid was driving the dogs apart, he gave a lift to the cap, and Grainne saw the ball seirce and she was in heavy love for Diarmaid. She told it to Diarmaid, and she said to him, "Thou shalt run away with me. On a morning that there was, who cried out in the door but Grainne, "Art thou within, Diarmaid? Fionn took great wrath when he perceived that his wife had gone away, and he went to search for her. They went over to Ceantire, and no stop went on their foot, nor stay on their step, till they reached Carraig an Daimh in Ceantire, near to Cille Charraig, Diarmaid was a good carpenter, and he used to be at making dishes, and at fishing, and Grainne used to be going about selling the dishes, and they had beds apart. Diarmaid was working at dishes. The old man was pretty strong, but at last Diarmaid put him under. Diarmaid left them, and he was going from hole to hole, and he was but just alive, and he was gone under hair and under beard. He came the way of the Carraig and a fish with him, and he asked leave to roast it. He got a cogie of water in which he might dip his fingers, while he was roasting it. Now there would be the taste of honey or anything which Diarmaid might touch with his finger, and he was dipping his fingers p. When Grainne saw that Ciofach was dead she followed Diarmaid, and about the break of day, she came to the strand, and there was a heron screaming. Her foot had stuck to a frozen slab. The knife was in Diarmaid ever since she had put it into him, and he would not take it out. Grainne drew out the knife, and that was the greatest shame that she ever took, drawing the knife out of Diarmaid. They went up the side of a burn that was there, and took their dwelling there, and they had beds apart. The Fiantan were hunting along the foot of the strand, and they were on the track of a venomous boar that was discomfiting them. Fionn took notice of the shavings at the foot of the burn. We will shout Foghaid? It was set before Diarmaid to hunt the boar. Diarmaid roused the boar from Bein Eidin to Bein Tuirc. His tempered blades were twisted Like withered rushy plaits. This was no revenge for Fionn yet over Diarmaid. There was a mole on the sole of the foot of Diarmaid, and if one of the bristles should go into it, it would bring his death. Said Fionn-- "Oh Diarmaid, measure the boar, How many feet from his snout to his heel? Diarmaid measured the boar. Fionn took sorrow for him when he fell. The Fein were exceedingly sorrowful about what had befallen. They burned Grainne, daughter of Carraig of steeds That never took a step aright, In a faggot of grey oak. This story then, under a very rough exterior, embodies the main incidents and some lines of the poem which follows. The last story, No. The next, the Lay of Diarmaid, got from several people in Uist and Barra, seems to leave the place of the catastrophe uncertain, but Bein-Gulban is the haunt of the heroes, and Irish writers say that Bein-Gulban is Bein-Boolban in Sligo.

**Chapter 6 : Ireland's Greatest Romance - The Legend of Diarmuid and Grainne - Rings from Ireland**

*Fionn Mac Cumhaill is chieftain of Fianna Éireann, and Diarmaid Mac Duibhne is one of his men - the handsomest of them, it is said. He is also reputed to have a beauty spot somewhere on his body that makes him even more attractive to women.*

Aonghus gave this sword to his foster-son Diarmuid, in addition to a sword named Beagalltach, the Little Fury. While hunting one night he met a woman who was the personification of youth. After sleeping with him she put a magical love spot under his eye [1] that caused any woman who looked at it to fall in love with him. Drenched to the bone, her sodden hair was snarled and knotted. She knelt beside each warrior and demanded a blanket, beginning with Fionn. Only young Diarmuid, whose bed was nearest to the fireplace, took pity on the woman, giving her his bed and blanket. Diarmuid told her she could sleep all night and he would protect her. Towards dawn, she became a beautiful young woman. Overjoyed, Diarmuid asked the woman to live with him. She agreed on one condition: After three days together, Diarmuid grew restless. She offered to watch his hound and her new pups while Diarmuid went hunting. Each time, she honoured the request. Each time, Diarmuid was angry and asked her how she could repay him so meanly when he overlooked her ugliness the first night they met. On the third mention, woman and house disappeared and his beloved greyhound died. Realizing that his ungratefulness has caused him to lose everything he valued, Diarmuid set out to find his lady. He used an enchanted ship to cross a stormy sea to the Otherworld, where he searched for the lady through meadows filled with brightly coloured horses and silver trees. Three times he saw a drop of blood; he gathered each drop into his handkerchief. Rushing to her side, he discovered she was dying. The three drops of blood Diarmuid collected were from her heart, spilled each time she thought of Diarmuid. The only cure was a cup of healing water from the Plain of Wonder, guarded by a jealous king and his army. Diarmuid vowed to bring back the cup. At an impassable river, Diarmuid was helped by the Red Man of All Knowledge, who had red hair and eyes like glowing coals. Twice eight hundred fighting men were sent out, and in three hours there was not one of them left to stand against him. Then twice nine hundred better fighters were sent out against him, and within four hours there was not one of them left. On the return trip, the Red Man advised Diarmuid on how to heal his lady. Having cured his lover, Diarmuid boarded an enchanted ship to return to the Fianna, where he was greeted by his friends and his greyhound, which the lady had returned to life as her final gift to him. Fionn Mac Cumhaill, much older than in his other adventures, had several wives over the years. Diarmuid also objected to her advances because Fionn was a friend and his leader. Grainne imposed a geis on Diarmuid that he must follow her. His friends were saddened, knowing that Diarmuid would die if he came between Fionn and his desired wife. Diarmuid left the palace, knowing that despite being a friend and follower of Fionn, his leader would hunt him down for the betrayal. Fionn told his followers to surround and capture Diarmuid. Each of them offered to let the lovers through, but Diarmuid refused to allow them to compromise their honour by doing so. Searbhan agreed on the condition that they would not eat the berries. Searbhan refused and attacked Diarmuid with his massive club. Fionn lost three straight matches to his son. Fionn realised that the couple were hiding in the tree and ordered men to kill his rival. Diarmuid killed seven warriors named Garbh. Fionn went to the Land of Promise to ask his old nurse Bodhmall to kill Diarmuid. Diarmuid was hunting in the forest beside the river Boyne and Bodhmall flew through the air on a flying water-lily and hurled poisoned darts that could penetrate his shield and armour. They had five children, four sons and a daughter. He was gored by a giant boar which had already killed a number of men and hounds. In the 4th and 5th games in the Fire Emblem series, Diarmuid is one of the heroes in the second generation of characters. Tower of Saviours, a mobile game app developed in Hong Kong, included Diarmuid as a character. Diarmuid is a collectible unit in the mobile game "Age of Ishtaria". His gender has been swapped and she wields two swords named Moralltach and Beagalltach. Instead of a greyhound, her favored pet appears to be a black and white sheepdog. However, they hold a similar color scheme of red and yellow. A crater on Europa is named after Diarmuid with many others also named after Celtic figures [6].

**Chapter 7 : Sex Education (or lack of) with Diarmuid and Gráinne | Irish Imbas Books**

*From their album "The Morrigan's Call." Lyrics: The years they passed like a flowing stream in a highland vale shrouded in green. The Fianna marched with Fionn at their helm, though older and.*

Grainne is such a one. She, like Aine, was honored at the summer solstice and the first grain harvest of early August with bonfires and torchlit processions on top of her sacred hill at Leinster, Ireland. Remnants of these festivals are still found in folk ritual today. Grainne is a part of the triple goddess formed by Herself and Her two sisters, Fenne and Aine. Both Grainne and Aine were seen by locals as beautiful, golden-haired goddesses who visited their fields and hilltops to protect and nurture the land, people and animals. A Sun Goddess and master herbalist, Grainne rules herbs, knowledge, the sun, and fire. Today Grainne is most known from the elopement story of Diarmaid and Grainne, with a similar theme to the later Welsh story of Trystan and Iseult and to the even later tale of King Arthur and Guinivere. These tales portray the unhappy love triangle of two men who both love one woman. Usually the woman is married to or promised to the older, more powerful man yet is in love with the younger man. In these tales it is the woman who chooses the man, compelling him to act as she desires. MacCana, the elopement of Grainne and Diarmaid echoes the earlier proto-Celtic story in which Grainne, the bright Sun Goddess, embraced the darkness with her love of Donn, God of the Underworld, bringing together the duality of opposites through love. Their union brought the gift of grain to the people. The earliest fragments of the elopement tale date from the tenth century. His companions suggested Grainne, the most beautiful woman in Ireland. In an older version of the story Grainne tried to avoid marriage to the older Finn by setting him an impossible task. In newer versions she accepted the offer merely as a marriage of convenience. At the pre-wedding feast, Grainne began to doubt Her decision to marry the elderly Finn. She cast her eyes about, hoping to find one who would warm her heart. But Diarmaid was known for more than his fighting skills. He was also called the master and charmer of women. For he had been born with a magical spot, the Bol Sherca, in the middle of his forehead that caused all who saw it to fall in love with him. Diarmaid, wanting to avoid trouble, tried to hide the spot by covering it with his hair. As Grainne continued to look around the room, her eyes fell on Diarmaid at the exact moment that he tossed back his head, revealing the magic spot. Instantly She fell in love with him, resolving to run away with him. Grainne gave a sleeping draught to everyone with the exception of Diarmaid and three of his friends. First she asked those three if they would go with her. Diarmaid, though loath to betray Finn, could not violate his geis. So the two left together. The two lived roughly, taking shelter in great beds of stone all the while pursued by Finn. As legends grow with time, these stone beds became known as spots which could endow fertility on barren women and cement love between lovers. Much time passed in this way. Diarmaid refused to make love to Grainne, wanting to remain loyal to Finn. He always left raw meat at their stone beds as a token of his abstinence. But finally her charms convinced him and the two came together in love. The chase continued for many years during which the couple had four sons and a daughter. Grainne and Diarmaid were able to settle down and raise their family. Diarmaid, while hunting with Finn, was gored by a wild boar. Finn could have saved him. Some versions of the story recount that Grainne mourned Diarmaid for the rest of her life. Others say that she reconciled with Finn and married him. When Grainne calls your name, know that you have the power to make your own choices, to claim your sovereignty. Trust that your soul choices, though sometimes difficult, will bring abundance. Feel the truth of the unity from which our world of duality springs. Experience the wisdom of the Celtic Goddesses! Judith Shaw, a graduate of the San Francisco Art Institute, has been interested in myth, culture and mystical studies all her life. She continues to be inspired by the Divine Feminine in all of Her manifestations. Originally from New Orleans, Judith now makes her home in New Mexico where she paints and teaches part-time. She is currently hard at work on a deck of Goddess cards. Her work, which expresses her belief in the interconnectedness of all life, can be seen on her website.

**Chapter 8 : The Pursuit of Diarmuid and Gráinne - Wikipedia**

*One of the great romantic legends of Ireland is that of Diarmuid and Gráinne. The legend is similar to that of Tristan and Iseult, and of King Arthur and the romance between his wife Guinevere and Sir Lancelot.*

## Chapter 9 : Diarmaid and Gráinne | Cartlanna Sheosaimh Uí- Ána

*Diarmuid Ua Duibhne (Irish pronunciation: [ˈd̪ˠiːwʲiːn̪ə ˈm̪ˠiː d̪ˠiːn̪ə uːiː ˈd̪ˠiːn̪ə ˈɡr̪ˠiːn̪ə]) or Diarmid O'Dyna (also known as Diarmuid of the Love Spot), was a demigod, son of Donn and one of the Fianna in the Fenian Cycle of Irish mythology (traditionally set in the 2nd to 4th century).*