

# SAVING TIR NA NOG

## Quotes to Ponder and Write About

### Prologue

Regrettably, time bowed to no one. He was his own master; tricky and impossible to predict. (xi)

She wasn't entirely sure what to do with Carman's sons; Dain, Dother, and Dub. All three were mentioned in the prophecy. Dain was violence, Dother was evil, and Dub was darkness. The Goddess Danu's daughters were the counter-weights to the Goddess Carman's sons. Grania was love, Maolisa was faith, and Niamh was pure radiance. (xii)

### Chapter 1

I prayed she was right. There was so much violence in the world these days. I'd seen the news... well, snippets of news. Mom hurriedly changed the channel every time we entered the room. Still, with all those countries asking my dad to improve their security, I wondered if there was any place where people remained truly safe. (5)

### Chapter 2

I'd held fast to my belief that leprechauns, faeries, and unicorns existed, even when my friends made fun of me. They called me a baby for believing in these things. I didn't let that stop me. I knew that believing required a certain amount of faith. There were kids at my school who claimed that God didn't exist. I still believed in him. I didn't have to see him to believe he existed. (25)

"Nightmares warn children, they help them make better choices, and they prepare them for the harsher side of life. Nightmares build empathy, understanding, and they help us cherish those people and experiences that make us feel happy," he answered rather stoically. (35)

### Chapter 3

“The prophecy doesn’t seem nearly as important as learning you exist. I mean... we’re family. Family is everything.”

I nodded. While our relationship was new and unexpected, I agreed. Families stand by one another no matter what. (42)

“We use our powers discretely because it helps ensure our security.” Cha Cha’s voice grew solemn. “This power must only be used for good. We coax rain when there’s drought, stop the rain when there’s a flood, or draw the excess water into the ground. We calm the winds when there’s a forest fire, increase the winds to hurry a storm along, and lure humans and animals to safety when their lives are in danger.” (58)

Grudgingly, my feet agreed to move. “What about Lexie and Mom?” Every step closer to my dad felt like a step further away from them. I could feel it, like two giant rubber bands pulling me in different directions. (66)

The air felt misty and warm. My fingers rubbed together, marveling at the moisture, which wasn’t like any moisture I’d felt before. This moisture held expectations. It conveyed a deep sense of responsibility while promising peace and belonging. I peered through the mist, sensing... *more*. A silent song hung in the air. The water was calling to us, inviting us home. (76)

“The enchanted waters will weigh your intentions. Anyone harboring bad intentions toward the *Sidhe*, the Goddess Danu, or *Tír na nÓg* is sucked through a portal and deposited into *Lough Leane*, the Lake of Learning.” (77)

### Chapter 4

A stone bridge, covered in moss, emerged from the luminous lake. The arch formed a perfect half circle when the bridge locked into place. With the reflection in the water, there appeared to be a full circle, half in and half out of the water. My breath caught. The bridge formed a looking glass, displaying the world as it should be... connected, balanced, and at peace. (86)

I was about to ask another question when the goddess began to sing. I’m not sure how I knew it was the Goddess Danu singing, but I felt her presence

in the song. There was something vaguely familiar, some elusive memory, tied to that song, but I couldn't pinpoint what it was. My lashes grew heavy. My anxieties eased. "Only sweet dreams," I whispered and drifted off to sleep. (93)

He grasped my hands. "Families face their demons together. They fight for one another, and they love one another... no matter what." (102)

*She was building hope.* Something inside of me clicked. Suddenly, I understood. Hope required effort; it was something you worked on, just like faith and love. (109)

## Chapter 5

"Our warriors possess tactical skills and strength, which enables them to fight, but violence only begets more violence. You cannot extinguish evil through wit and brawn alone; and our warriors do not possess the light or the hope needed to overcome the darkness that has descended on the human realm." (130-131)

"Dain is violence. Love ends all thoughts... all desire... for violence. When you love someone, you do not wish to see him harmed. Grania, you are love. Dain cannot spark violence when you inspire love." (132)

"Dother is evil. Evil is extinguished through faith... faith in God... faith in our people... faith in one another... and faith in oneself. Maolisa, you are faith. You must believe in yourself, lead by example, and strengthen the faith of those around you." (132)

"Dub is darkness. Darkness cannot exist in light. Niamh, you are light. You will not fight the way they fight. You will not fight the way our warriors fight. You will eliminate darkness with light."

"Light from the energy in my hands?" Niamh asked.

The goddess laughed. "No, although I can understand why you would think that. Light is a metaphor for hope. You, my sweet child, will offer hope when there is none." (133)

## Chapter 6

“Holding back tears only binds our hearts and our minds.” (142)

“If you can sense emotions, then you can determine what others need to feel loved. In other words, you can change how they’re feeling.” (184)

## Chapter 7

How can you apply faith, light, and love to end violence, darkness, and evil throughout the human realm? (212)

“Every painful experience offers an opportunity.” (211)

Diarmuid removed the infuser from his mug. “We enjoy sharing our talents and helping one another, so we don’t need money. Money just complicates things, especially when you already have everything you need.” (220)

## Chapter 8

The kindness you show others... offering the *Fear Gorta* food, befriending the *Kelpie* and the *Ellen Trechend*. building the meditation garden, taking time to play with the unicorns, and your efforts to keep us safe by securing the portal... all those actions reflect love, Grania.” (242)

Maolisa drew closer to me. “They are fearful. Fear is a powerful thing.” (285)

“Well,” she confessed, “there is a shield stronger than any weapon, a shield that can withstand any attack, that would enable you to conquer any fear. I thought you might possess it.”

His eyes lit with interest. “This shield... does it have a name?”

“Yes,” she said, “it is the Shield of Faith.” (286)

## Chapter 9

“Please, Grania,” he implored. “I must know. We can work through this together. Remember, two heads are better than one.” (295)

“There are an infinite amount of possibilities, more choices than any one person can possibly comprehend. Of all the lessons I’ve learned from *fidchell*, that is the most critical one. We’re going to find another way to solve this problem... one that won’t cost you your life.” (296)

“Our destiny is not fixed,” Kane answered gently. “Something may have happened to change Grania’s fate between the time you visited *Ogham* and the time she spoke with the Rowan Tree.”

Ainle stood in front of me, his arms folded across his chest. “If that is true, then we can change her fate again.” (303)

Her eyes sparked with amusement. “People are infinitely more entertaining than television.” (305)

There is no room for fear, for worry, or doubt. We must abandon those toxic thoughts. Acknowledge and release them now.” (309)

“Grania,” Cathal called softly. Our eyes met. “Follow your instincts and your heart. They will guide you when the time comes.” (310)

Maolisa spoke. She was still struggling against Dother. “One may be overpowered, two can defend themselves, but three... a cord of three strands is not easily broken.” (320)

“Those limits you have been applying to yourself don’t really exist.” My teeth clenched against another wave of pain when he ducked away from Dain. “Do you understand? Those limits don’t exist. Like in *fidchell*, there are an infinite amount of possibilities... more options than any one person can comprehend. You can achieve anything you set your mind to... you and the remaining *Sidhe*.” (327)

## Chapter 10

Elgin shook his head. “Grania is my friend. When friends help one another, they accrue no debt.” (342)

My eyes snagged on the Claddagh ring, which adorned the hand Ainle now cradled in his own.

Of all the places that ring would take me... *this* was the place I desired most. (355)