



Mary O'Leary and the Leprechauns of Ballybunn Village

by *Tim Ryan*

The story takes place many years ago in the small fictional town of Ballybunn Village in County Tipperary, Ireland. The story centers on Mary O'Leary and her two brothers Tommy (who likes girls more than girls like him) & Seamus (who is teased all the time because he is short) as well as her sister Peggy (who likes nice things but doesn't realize they cost money). Mary is the oldest O'Leary child who has been taking care of her siblings since her mother passed away a couple of years earlier. The O'Leary children's father Thaddeus O'Leary has been away in America trying to save enough money to send for his children so they can live a better life. Despite warnings of the dangers of leprechauns from the other villagers, the O'Leary children go in search of lost sheep in the ruins of McLunser Castle. Legend has it that McLunser Castle is the home to Leviticus, King of all the Leprechauns and his loyal Leprechaun subjects. None of the O'Leary children believe in Leprechauns until they see Leviticus and his band of Leprechauns in the flesh. Tommy captures Leviticus. Tommy, Peggy and Seamus make wishes with the leprechaun. Mary refuses to make a wish because she knows all too well the stories of how Leprechauns like to trick humans for their own merriment.

After Tommy, Peggy and Seamus make their respective wishes they return to the village. Tommy wishes for all the single girls in Ballybunn village to love him. Peggy wishes for everyone in Ballybunn village to possess all the valuables in the world such as gems, precious metals and of course money. Seamus wishes he were a foot taller. At first it is clear that their wishes have been granted. Then slowly things begins to take a turn for the worse and all of Ballybunn Village is turned upside down in comedic turmoil as things become unraveled because of the O'Leary's wishes. Tragically one of the Seamus becomes gravely ill as the family attempts to prevent the Dullahan (The mythical Irish angel of death) arrive to take Seamus to heaven.

Only Mary O'Leary can save her family as well as the rest of the Ballybunn Villagers from the twisted sense of humor of Leviticus King of All the Leprechauns!

"Ryan's story spins around the characters of a fictitious Irish Village and the pleasant folk that live there."

- Portland Press Herald, March, 2001

"Educational on many levels... a great memory to all the young people participating."

- Portland Press Herald, March, 2001

"Playwright Tim Ryan has a flair for words. His language is crisp and somewhat cynical."

- Joseph P. Mauro, Journal Tribune, 5/01

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