

## Wild Mountain Thyme

This is a touching Irish romance that offers lovely roles for its long unrequited lovers, Rosemary Muldoon (Emily Blunt) and Anthony Reilly (Jamie Dornan). Life-long neighbors and friends since childhood, the two children of contiguous farms in beautiful County Mayo have long had a rough-and-tumble relationship and have grown up like testy siblings. Trouble is, Rosemary has always had an amorous yen for Anthony which he does not return, being too shy or reserved to acknowledge

After Anthony's crotchety father Tony (Christopher Walken) decides to bequeath his property to a rich and smug American cousin Adam Kelly (Jon Hamm) instead of to Anthony, the joint futures of Rosemary and Anthony are threatened. This is too much for Rosemary, who owns her farm outright after the death of her mother (Dearbhla Molloy). Now alone, Rosemary finally feels she must press Anthony to commit to their joint lands together--and to each other. But Anthony has a long-buried secret he feels he must hide from Rosemary, Utterly frustrated, she then makes her final move.

Written and directed by American playwright John Patrick Shanley ("Moonstruck") from his play 2018 play "Outside Mullingar," "Thyme" is surely sentimental and predictable but satisfying, and, though the chemistry between the leads takes some time to kindle, their spark glows in the last act, in which, amidst pouring rain, Anthony finally reveals his hidden self.

It's hard to go wrong shooting Irish landscapes, and cinematographer Stephen Goldblatt, bathes the film in plenty of green, lush visions of the countryside. Backing this distinctive look is a matching music track, written by Amelia Warner (wife of Dornan), which has a lilting Irish flow and is given a lovely grace note with the use of the title tune, "Wild Mountain Thyme," a 19<sup>th</sup> C. love ballad sung winningly, first as a solo by Blunt herself and later reprised at the film's sweet conclusion.

*(This film is rated "PG-13" and runs 102 minutes).*

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