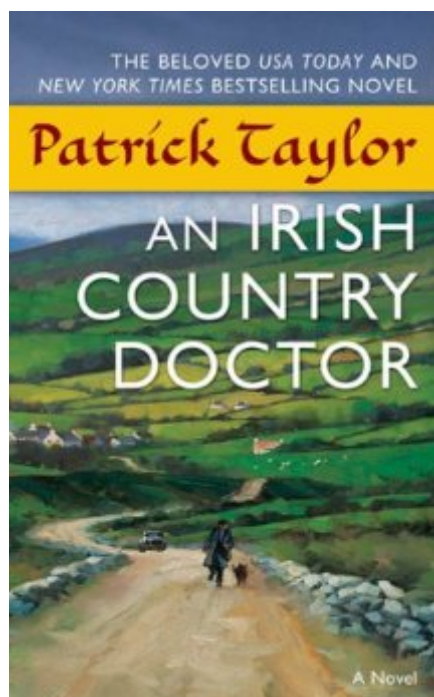


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An Irish Country Doctor (Irish Country Books Book 1)



Synopsis

Barry Laverty, M.B., can barely find the village of Ballybucklebo on a map when he first sets out to seek gainful employment there, but already he knows that there is nowhere he would rather live than in the emerald hills and dales of Northern Ireland. The proud owner of a spanking-new medical degree and little else in the way of worldly possessions, Barry jumps at the chance to secure a position as an assistant in a small rural practice. At least until he meets Dr. Fingal Flahertie O'Reilly. The older physician, whose motto is to never let the patients get the upper hand, has his own way of doing things. At first, Barry can't decide if the pugnacious O'Reilly is the biggest charlatan he has ever met, or the best teacher he could ever hope for. Through O'Reilly Barry soon gets to know all of the village's colorful and endearing residents, including: A malingering Major and his equally hypochondriacal wife; An unwed servant girl, who refuses to divulge the father of her upcoming baby; A slightly daft old couple unable to marry for lack of a roof; And a host of other eccentric characters who make every day an education for the inexperienced young doctor. Ballybucklebo is long way from Belfast, and Barry is quick to discover that he still has a lot to learn about the quirks and traditions of country life. But with pluck and compassion and only the slightest touch of blarney, he will find out more about life—and love—than he ever imagined back in medical school. *An Irish Country Doctor* is a charming and engrossing tale that will captivate readers from the very first page—and leave them yearning to visit the Irish countryside of days gone by. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

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Customer Reviews

The novel *An Irish Country Doctor* takes place in the 1960s, and although medical miracles are beginning to appear, the good Dr. O'Reilly practices his own medicine, his own way of treating this town full of eccentric patients. And he treats them very successfully, thank you. Dr. Laverty, on the other hand, insists modern medicine and going strictly by the rules are the only ways of properly healing patients. It doesn't take long for Laverty to find a love interest, the beautiful Patricia Spence, a young lady determined to become an engineer. She soon becomes one of the many stumbling blocks Laverty must overcome to be the person and the doctor he wants to be. As Laverty works as O'Reilly's assistant, he learns about love, loss of love and the hard knocks life can dish out in general and that he is not immune to experiencing some of life's more difficult situations himself. Author Patrick Taylor has produced a beautiful story, intelligently written and filled with interesting characters. Richly illustrated with word pictures, the reader easily sees the beautiful Irish landscape, the rag-tag populace - O'Reilly's patients - that joyfully fill this novel's pages. Animals play an important role in the story. Laverty soon learns that everything has the ability to teach him something. I truly became involved in the lives of the doctors and their supporting cast of characters. The novel doesn't hold many surprises, but it is so lyrically written that it held my attention from the first page until the last. The back of the book has a glossary which translates the "Ulster-Scots dialect," which is generously used throughout the book and lends much color and interest to the story, but does indeed, look like a foreign language to the uninitiated.

Travelers to the North of Ireland find wind-swept vistas, fog-blanketed coasts and a land so verdant it looks like it was brush-stroked by Thomas Kinkade. On the occasional clear day you can even see Scotland from the lush Antrim shoreline. A mere twelve miles, 'tis, across the North Channel, and a cinch for the marauding Scots giants of lore to breach it in a dozen strides, seeking to do battle with Ireland's own giant, Finn McCool. Saint Patrick first landed somewhere nearby and lies buried beneath an eponymous cathedral in County Down. A land of provos and loyalists, the fervent prayer is that the North of Ireland has also entombed the Troubles. Nestled astride close-by Belfast Lough,

readers are introduced to the make-believe, picture-postcard village of Ballybucklebo. An emerald plucked from the Ireland of yesteryear, herein resides a laughable, affable and pitiable collection of all the Irish caricatures we'd ever want to meet. `Tis where we find our two Irish country doctors in residence plying a common sense and routinely placebo-driven brand of medicine mildly reminiscent of the old joke: A man goes to his doctor and informs him that his arm hurts terribly when he raises it. To which the doctor replies: "Then don't raise your arm. Next patient!" Our crusty but learned Doctor Fingal Flahertie O'Reilly plays mentor, confessor and father-figure to wet-behind-the-ears Doctor Barry Lavery, late of Belfast's Queen's University Medical School. Gambling that rural Ireland might offer a more suitable lifestyle than Belfast, Dr. Lavery arrives in Ballybucklebo ("Bally" loosely meaning "town" in Irish) driving a beat-up Volkswagen, answering O'Reilly's advertisement for a physician to assist him.

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