



## An Irish Country Doctor (Irish Country Books)

By Patrick Taylor

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### An Irish Country Doctor (Irish Country Books) By Patrick Taylor

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.

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A straitlaced novice doctor gets initiated into the unorthodox world of a crafty rural sawbones in Taylor's American debut. Barry Laverty is fresh out of school and uncertain about what type of medicine he should practice when he answers an ad for a physician's assistant in Ballybucklebo, a small Northern Ireland town populated, it seems, entirely by eccentrics. Laverty is initially taken aback by his new boss, Fingal Flahertie O'Reilly, whom he meets as O'Reilly is literally throwing a patient out of his office. Laverty spends most of the novel swaying between understanding O'Reilly's methods and second-guessing the boxer turned doctor who dishes out plenty of placebos and isn't above telling a white lie or a crude joke to worried patients. Though Laverty often comes across as painfully uptight, he also has an endearing-for-its-awkwardness streak that only surfaces around Patricia Spence, though she'd rather focus on her civil engineering studies than make time for a boyfriend. Serving as a foil to all the innocent fun is the lecherous, greedy Councillor Bishop, who, thanks to a scheming O'Reilly and a reluctant Laverty, gets his comeuppance. Despite the occasional whimsy overload, Taylor's novel makes for escapist, delightful fun. (Feb.)

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### Review

Patrick Taylor, MD, is a man of words and he is a healing physician, too. Do not be deceived by the title on the cover as the book is only incidentally an Irish location - it deals with eccentric, funny humans, dogs, cats and cattle. This book is written with compassion and hilarity about a community whose inhabitants are as wonderful and loony as any on earth. The doctor's patients are not simply out-of-order machines, they are living human beings who need love and reassurance, which the good doctor freely dispenses. A grand read from a grand man (*Malachy McCourt, New York Times bestselling author of A Monk Swimming*)

At last! Here is an authentic Northern Ireland voice telling down-to-earth stories that could have happened anywhere on the island. A full cupboard of delightful characters, both human and animal, enrich every page. Quirky, funny, and deeply moving by turns, Taylor's writing perfectly captures the language and character of Ulster in times gone by. I promise you will enjoy this book immensely; I did. (*Morgan Llywelyn, New York Times bestselling author of The Last Prince of Ireland*)

In a style joyously reminiscent of James Herriot, Dr. Taylor conjures up the rural Irish town of Ballybucklebo that is a pleasure to visit and very difficult to leave. I had a hoot following the humorous and at times poignant exploits of the irascible family doctor, Fingal O'Reilly, and his young, wide-eyed (and very urban) apprentice, Barry Laverty, as they confront all manner of man and beast in the eccentric but lovable town. I can hardly wait for more. (*Daniel Kalla, international bestselling author of Rage Therapy*)

Wraps you in the sensations of a vanished time and place. Like Barry Laverty [the hero of the novel] you join the household. You meet his eccentric housekeeper, Kinky (short for 'Mrs. Kinkaid'), who tends to come bustling in with a tray, saying things like: 'Tea, and bit of toasted, buttered barmbrack.' (*Vancouver Sun*)

With an unerring eye for detail, the talents of a natural storyteller and the ability to pepper his anecdotes with large doses of wit and humor, Patrick Taylor has written a delightful novel...the lives of the engaging and eccentric townspeople, whose hilarious mishaps provide a perfect foil for the endeavors of the town's medical men. (*Calgary Herald*)

### About the Author

Patrick Taylor, M.D., is the author of the Irish Country books, including *An Irish Country Village*, *An Irish Country Christmas*, *An Irish Country Girl*, and *An Irish Country Courtship*. Taylor was born and raised in Bangor County Down in Northern Ireland. After qualifying as a specialist in 1969, he worked in Canada for thirty-one years. He now lives on Saltspring Island, British Columbia.

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