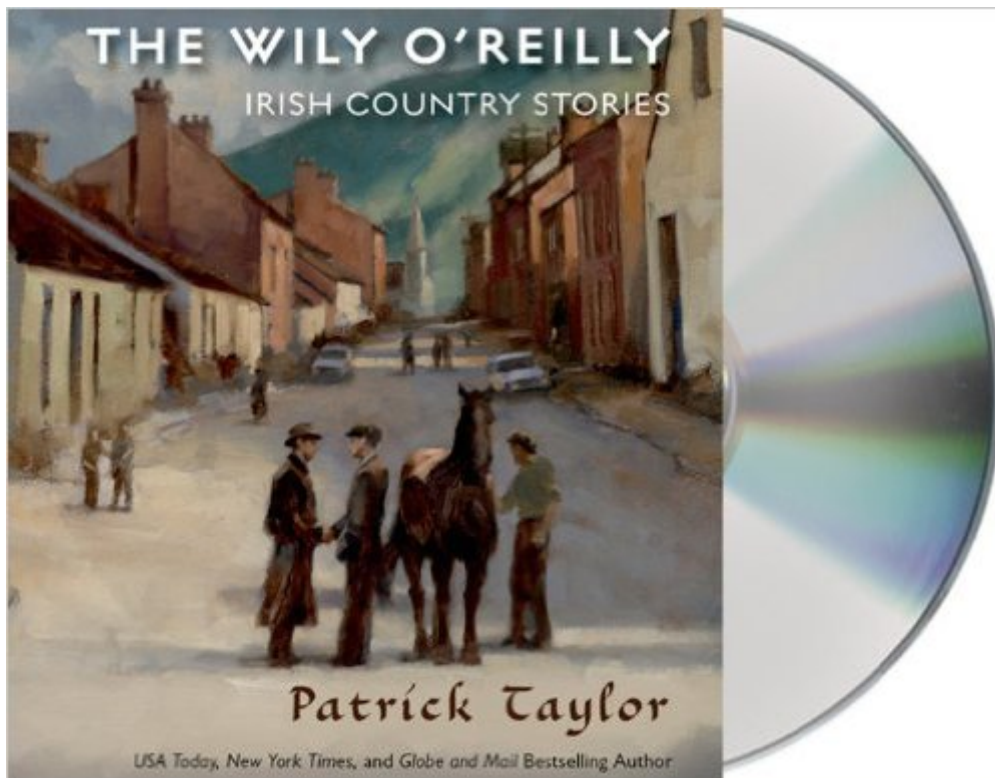


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The Wily O'Reilly: Irish Country Stories (Irish Country Books)



Synopsis

Long before Dr. Fingal Flahertie O'Reilly made most readers' acquaintance in Patrick Taylor's bestselling novel *An Irish Country Doctor*, he appeared in a series of humorous columns originally published in *Stitches: The Journal of Medical Humour*. These warm and wryly amusing vignettes provide an early glimpse at the redoubtable Dr. O'Reilly as he tends to the colourful and eccentric residents of Ballybucklebo, a cozy Ulster village nestled in the bygone years of the early sixties. Those seminal columns have been collected in *The Wily O'Reilly: Irish Country Stories*. In this convenient volume, Patrick Taylor's legions of devoted fans can savor the enchanting origins of the Irish Country series . . . and newcomers to Ballybucklebo can meet O'Reilly for the very first time. An ex-Navy boxing champion, classical scholar, crypto-philanthropist, widower, and hard-working general practitioner, Fingal Flahertie O'Reilly is crafty and cantankerous in these charming slices of rural Irish life. Whether he's educating a naive man of the cloth in the facts of life, dealing with chronic hypochondriacs and malingerers, clashing with pigheaded colleagues, or raising a pint in the neighborhood pub, the wily O'Reilly knows a doctor's work is never done, even if some of his "cures" can't be found in any medical text!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

These are the early stories that formed the basis for the Irish Country Doctor novels, and they are gems. The narrator a long-suffering junior doctor, is an assistant to a local GP who is, to put it mildly, a character. Irascible, fond of his beer and his whiskey, Doctor Fingal O'Reilly is larger than life.

He suffers fools not at all, but has God's own compassion for the ordinary women, men and children who are his neighbors and clients. The secret charm of Fingal O'Reilly is his vast, underlying competence. Without it, he'd be a mere blusterer. He's had a naval career, he's been a pugilist and has the nose to show for it he is widely read and is an astute practitioner of Asclepius' art. He will stand up to anybody, recognizing and respecting only genuine authority that derives from being, despising utterly bean counters and figureheads. The self-effacing narrator plays Doctor Watson to this choleric Holmes, passing on what the Great Man says and does, sometimes with commentary that catches you off guard and rolls you to the floor. If you are very, very lucky, you have a relative or friend like Fingal O'Reilly. If not, you can console yourself with these stories. And be sure to read the Author's Note, which contains such gems as, "When an Ulsterman goes to sea, strange things happen. We, after all, built the RMS Titanic." You don't have to be Irish yourself to love these stories, and these characters, you just have to be human.

After reading all of Taylor's books in the O'Reilly series, this comes as a letdown. The contents were originally columns that were the basis for the series. As standalones, they are good; after reading the series, however, they seem disjointed and lacking the depth of character Taylor builds in the novels.

I hope this book is not a reader's first introduction to the characters and stories of Mr. Taylor's Irish Country books. I have enjoyed them all. As a historical precursor to the Irish Country series, the book is an interesting collection of prior columns and stories. Unfortunately, many of them read as bad puns and tired stories, and suffer from the undoubted limitations of the original publications. Read one after the other they become a bit tiresome and I am reminded of the editorial comments of editors to legal humor columns of days past who often found it necessary to remind readers, "The court found the exchange quite humorous." Maybe the court did, but it did not translate to the written page. If you are a Taylor fan, buy the book, with a lower expectation than the Irish Country series books. If you have not read any of the other books, forgo this one for now, and read the series from the beginning. I recommend the latter course, but cannot say the same of this book.

My husband and I have read all the Irish Country books and looked forward to getting this one. We loved all that we had read before, but this was not even close to Patrick Taylor's previous. It was more like a compilation of his ideas for writing earlier chapters, and we didn't even finish it. We would

really love to see a continuation of O'Reilly stories, or more on another theme in that era.

This is such an easy read. The collection of humorous articles from past medical journals are so easy to read when in a pinch for time. I love reading a story or two when I have time to steal away between chores or patients at work. Very easy to pick up and put down and not lose track of a story line as in a novel. Love his humor.

Must have used the articles to practice writing his marvelous Irish country doctor series. Love those. These short stories are somewhat repetitive, as is to be expected, but not especially entertaining -- particularly narrators' descriptions of O'Reilly's moods & mannerisms.

I found this group of stories redundant if you've already several of his series of books, not worth the effort so I didn't finish. but read his Irish Country Doctor series, and you'll be enthralled - just skip this one.

I have LOVED every one of Patrick Taylor's, "Irish Country Doctor" series. I've bought all of them and re-read them while waiting for a new one to come out! I would give 10 stars to each of them; however, I didn't like "The Wily O'reilly," as much. Although I love his use of similies in his other books, I thought there were just too many in this book.

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