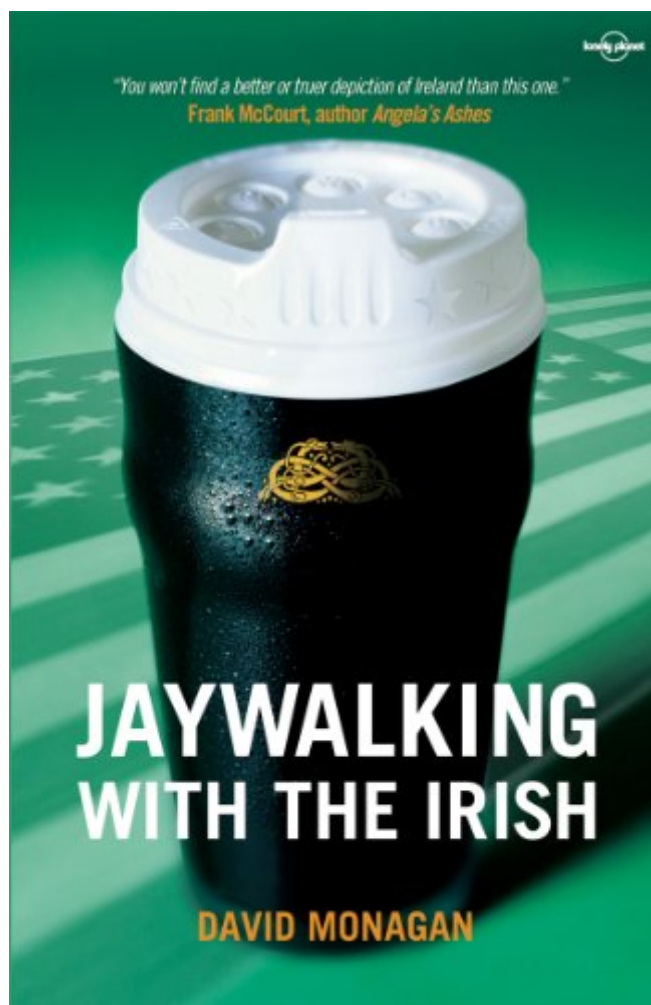




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Jaywalking With The Irish (Lonely Planet Travel Literature)



Synopsis

David Monagan has always dreamed of relocating to Ireland, the land of his forebears. With humour and candour, he describes the pleasures and pitfalls, challenges and frustrations of moving a feisty family to a foreign land. Jaywalking with the Irish is an honest, penetrating and often hilarious portrait of a contemporary Ireland that is so often portrayed through the wistful lens of clichés that no longer apply

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Customer Reviews

I knew Dave Monagan in high school but had not encountered him since till another classmate published his second book, "Ireland Unhinged" and arranged a book-signing in New York. I went to the event and bought a copy and appreciated his take on the "Irish Tiger" economic boom and bust but even more loved his introduction to Ireland's history, culture, characters, and beauty. So of course I bought this book as well, which was its predecessor and describes the decision he and his wife, both Irish-American, made, to move from Cornwell, Connecticut to Cork with their three grammar- and middle school-aged children. He writes with verve and insight and some of the manic style he had already begun to develop even in high school, which, reading his books suggests, may

spring from his Irish genealogy as much as from any American experience. Knowing no more of Ireland than stopovers at Shannon Airport, I have been romanced into wanting to go there by his two books.

This was a highly enjoyable read. One of my best friends is Irish and I have visited her there a few times and thought how lovely it would be to someday live in Ireland. The author actually moved his wife and family there and shares with us all of the ups and downs. I think Americans tend to romanticize about living in other places (a la "Under the Tuscan Sun") but the reality of actually figuring out life in a foreign country is not as easy as one would think. I especially enjoyed the way the author described dealing with the Irish and how one doesn't always know where you stand with them. This has definitely been my experience with my Irish friend. We both speak the same language but our cultures are completely different, making it sometimes difficult to truly understand one another. That being said, going to Ireland and having Irish friends is a very enriching experience. They really are some of the finest people on earth! I look forward to reading the author's new book, "Ireland Unhinged"!

I totally enjoyed this book. Since I am "Irish American" it gave me insights into my immigrant Irish grandparents and the legacy they left their children. Their thoughts and values were quite different from today's, but sometimes funny to us. If anyone harbored the idea of emigrating to Ireland, this is a must have handbook. The only disturbing part of the book, was some of the Irishmen's thoughts of the sad day of 9/11. However, that said I am sure they were not the only ones who thought that way. I certainly enjoyed learning the things that I did, quite different from my ideas of Ireland today. Thank you for writing such a good book Mr. Monagan.

It was generally a good travelogue. There were a few points where his knowledge of Ireland was lacking, and he didn't do the research. His assertion, for example, that there are no reptiles or amphibians in Ireland. We've got no snakes, but lizards, frogs and toads are widespread. And the ending was very rushed. It was as if the author got bored with the whole project, and decided just to wrap it up. Or maybe he really does get these impulses to pick the family up, and move them across an ocean, in the blink of an eye? But he has a good ear for the language, and obviously makes friends easily, so you can forgive him a lot.

Jaywalking is the story of an Irish-American family who leave their comfortable existence in the

States for an adventure in the land of their ancestors. The Ireland that they encounter has some of the mysticism and welcome of the mythical Erin but it has plenty of warts, as well. In addition to the chronicling of the family's internal struggles and external associations, the author interweaves key elements of Irish history which provide insight into the persona of the Gael. This is an enjoyable and interesting book. It is a bit dated, in that it takes place during the halcyon days of the Celtic Tiger but I wholeheartedly recommend it.

I was planning a trip to Ireland, so thought I would read some books about the emerald isle. I found this book entertaining, but also very informative and helpful, written from the perspective of someone who lived outside of the country famous for its "troubles". The author's honesty about the country and its charming people gave me a tiny glimpse into what I could expect on my vacation. And the reality of moving so far away from friends and family to a different culture was portrayed very well. Just about the right length for this book - would recommend it to anyone wanting a glimpse into today's Irish culture and life.

This book was basically a first hand experience of my long fantasy of just packing up and moving to Ireland. Sadly in summary it reached the conclusion that I know in my heart, that I love the Irish more than the Irish love Americans. It is a wonderful, wonderful place to visit but the culture is too much for an outsider, we are rarely accepted even though we think we are part of the beloved Irish fabric. This book was very interesting, and I would recommend to all my fellow Plastic Pattys

This could have been a very interesting reading of the description of life in Ireland, and the life therein. Instead, I found it very wordy. When he was describing some place or people, I would be distracted by the long, long descriptions, lose the very point he was trying to make, and have to retrace my reading to remind myself what he was talking about. Not interested in reading more.

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