



Klondike House - Memories of an Irish Country Childhood

John Dwyer

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In "Klondike House," John Dwyer recounts his memories of growing up on the remote but beautiful Beara Peninsula in West Cork, Ireland. This was Ireland of the 1970s and 80s before the arrival of the short-lived economic riches of the Celtic Tiger.

Dwyer's vivid and colorful prose describes his hard but happy life as part of a isolated but close-knit community:

Early school days spent in a building with no running water or electricity

An encounter with a violent sheep that literally turned his world upside down

The days spent cutting the turf and saving the hay by hand

An Irish Christmas where nearly everything on the table was sourced from the farm

His exciting family history that brought his relations to the Klondike Gold Rush in Canada

Complemented by a collection of evocative photographs, each story tells of a way of life that has now largely disappeared.

Sprinkled with a selection of fitting works by some of Ireland's best-known poets such as Seamus Heaney and Patrick Kavanagh, this gem of a book is a chronicle of the simple but happy life of an Irish farmer boy.

Klondike House - Memories of an Irish Country Childhood Details

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From Reader Review Klondike House - Memories of an Irish Country Childhood for online ebook

Sairam Krishnan says

An absolutely wonderful read. It's a short, sweet trip down memory lane into a country, a people and a life I don't know, interspersed with history, culture and religion. I read it on a glorious windy day here in Madras, India, and don't think the morning could have been spent any better.

Take my word, get up one Sunday morning, make some coffee, sit and read all of it. You'll not be disappointed.

The best parts of the novella are the old Irish poems that decorate the narrative like the lights on the Christmas tree John describes in the book, and the Irish-American historical narrative right at the very end, giving the story context and completion.

Lovely stuff.

Colleen Lahey says

Interesting view of young boy's life growing up in Ireland.

Edra Adams says

This book reminds me very much of Farmer Boy by Laura Ingalls Wilder. I think it would be a great read aloud book for families that want to read together while traveling instead of everyone plugging into their own electronic device . It is an interesting book about a boy growing up in a different time and culture but also a book about a family and how they shaped his world. The language is simple enough that even young children could easily follow the story.

Pauli says

A non-depressing Irish childhood story. A short, easy & enjoyable read with ample breaks that made reading it on Kindle super easy!

Emily says

I was a little disappointed with this title. I was expecting it to be more of a memoir, I suppose. But memories is exactly what it is. There is no sense of who the author is, it is just a collection of disconnected memories he has of growing up in rural Ireland.

Griselda says

This is a heart warming book that takes place in a Ireland homeland.

Alison says

This was a very enjoyable book of highlights of the authors childhood, growing up on a farm on the Beara Peninsula in rural Ireland, which was a lot of hard work but also a lot of joy, within his close knit family. He sprinkled these memories with wonderful poems by Ireland's best known poets and some photos of his family which were wonderful to see. I thoroughly enjoy his writing style. I have read one other book by this author of his travels in South Africa and now want to read more.

Patricia says

Wonderful memories shared by a man who entered school in 1977 at age 5. He lived with his parents and siblings on a farm and remembers school, farm chores, Christmas, and other events. The book is charming.

No sex or violence

Kat says

I was very pleasantly surprised to find that I enjoyed this book immensely.

As I read the book, images of farmlife just flooded my mind and reminded me of the stories of my father's youth and the holidays I spent in Austria with my grandparents there.

I may have an evil touch in me as I cackled at the humorous (but possibly dangerous?) tale of The Beast and that of the Strawberry Cow.

Christmas in such a faraway land sounded similar to my christmases as a child (except for the snow and the turkey story).

This book has effectively given me the "country" bug... I want to go visit my family in countryside Austria now!

Leah K says

Random, disconnected stories about author's childhood. Didn't feel any connection to the author since he really doesn't say much about himself overall. Some cute stories and a short read, at least.

Deliasue says

This story takes place in Ireland, then you ask why Klondike House? It seems when family grew up and decided to move to the klondike gold fields, they sent money home to family to help pay the rent and other bills to keep the family afloat. So they named their home Klondike House.

I enjoyed reading about one families trials and tribulations back during the Irish potato famine. Living in WV myself and being poor I can relate to this story. We might have been poor but we always had a meal on the table, even if it was fatback bacon gravy and home made biscuits. I have always thought about writing my life story and have started it many times then laid it aside. If you like Ireland and the Klondike you will like this book.

Jessica says

This is a very pleasant book. The author writes about his childhood in Ireland - going to school, helping out with the farming, Christmas time. What made it pleasant for me was finding the parts about farming interesting, something I was not expecting after having read Laxness' *Independent People*.

Heelqueen says

I won this book as part of the goodreads giveaways and was pleasantly surprised when I realised this book was a book about an Irish childhood in cork, Ireland because that is where I am from so I found it very relatable and knew the places the author was on about.

Although this is a very short book which I read in under 20 minutes I think the author manages to pack a lot in. Although most areas of his childhood that he paints are no more than a paragraph they are very well described.

I like that for once this is not the stereotypical "terrible Irish childhood" and is about happy memories like the school and the bogs and how special Christmas was to his family. I also like the fact that there are poems by famous Irish poets which relate to the story. Also an added bonus that I knew these poets pretty well as I studied these poets such as seamus heaney and Patrick kavanagh in school.

Overall a short but well told read.

I really enjoyed this book

Nicole says

Very easy read. Okay for getting me psyched up for a trip to Ireland in 2 months.

Leslie says

Enjoyable but lightweight memoir. I liked the photographs and the inclusion of various poems related to the contents (especially the Seamus Heaney one).
