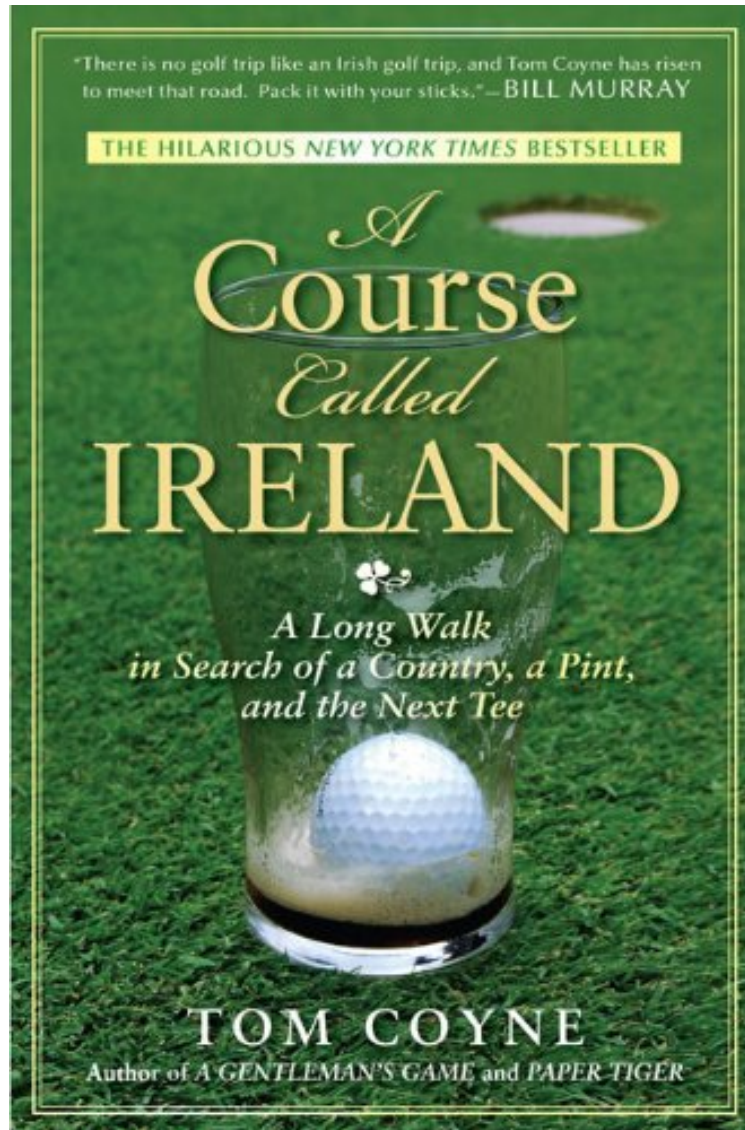


[Free download] A Course Called Ireland: A Long Walk in Search of a Country, a Pint, and the Next Tee

## A Course Called Ireland: A Long Walk in Search of a Country, a Pint, and the Next Tee

Tom Coyne

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**Tom Coyne : A Course Called Ireland: A Long Walk in Search of a Country, a Pint, and the Next Tee** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Course Called Ireland: A Long Walk in Search of a Country, a Pint, and the Next Tee:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I enjoyed every pageBy The Woolly BuggerI enjoyed every page, every little story, every experience, every feeling, every golf course, every character, every beer. My wife teases me

about how long it takes me to get through a book. This one shocked her because I couldn't put it down and read it faster than any book she's seen me read. I read a lot of sports books and books on history...my two favorites. In terms of sports related books and considering pure enjoyment, this one ranks right up there with Moneyball (as a huge A's fan). In my mind, being the mostly Irish golfer that I am, I have planned (fantasized) this grand trip to Ireland and mapped out courses I would play even before stumbling upon this book. Sadly, A Course Called Ireland (and others) is as close as I ever will get to Ireland. So I guess what I enjoyed is living vicariously through Mr. Coyne knowing I will likely never have the opportunity and privilege to "play Ireland." I was glad to get a sense of Mr. Coyne's gratitude and deep appreciation, in spite of his exhaustion and a few dicey situations. What a journey! I was sure glad to tag along. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Long Journey By Allen B. Snively Tim Coyne's "walk through Ireland", while interesting, was hard to read when you know nothing of Ireland. It made more sense after I had been there but the book content still seemed disjointed and rambled. I liked the book but it was hard to read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wonderfully written By T. Walley Nicely written, good insights into the people of Ireland and into life in general. This is not a book about how he played each hole on each golf course (which would be a turn-off)...it is much more than that. Thoroughly enjoyable, funny. Even non-golfers would enjoy it.

The hysterical story bestseller about one man's epic Celtic sojourn in search of ancestors, nostalgia, and the world's greatest round of golf By turns hilarious and poetic, A Course Called Ireland is a magnificent tour of a vibrant land and paean to the world's greatest game in the tradition of Bill Bryson's A Walk in the Woods. In his thirties, married, and staring down impending fatherhood, Tom Coyne was familiar with the last refuge of the adult male: the golfing trip. Intent on designing a golf trip to end all others, Coyne looked to Ireland, the place where his father has taught him to love the game years before. As he studied a map of the island and plotted his itinerary, it dawned on Coyne that Ireland was ringed with golf holes. The country began to look like one giant round of golf, so Coyne packed up his clubs and set off to play all of it on foot. A Course Called Ireland is the story of a walking-averse golfer who treks his way around an entire country, spending sixteen weeks playing every seaside hole in Ireland. Along the way, he searches out his family's roots, discovers that a once-poor country has been transformed by an economic boom, and finds that the only thing tougher to escape than Irish sand traps are Irish pubs.

From Publishers Weekly In this cheerily self-deprecating work, Coyne an Irish-American Philadelphian who never knew much about his roots and avoided exercise describes how he undertook a wildly ambitious plan to spend four months playing over 40 golf courses in Ireland and getting to them by walking. Coyne's tiredness quickly translates into hiker's euphoria; however, he has a tougher time facing the Irish breakfast every BB owner serves him (sausages, rashers, beans, soda bread an afternoon of wincing regret). Having already written a couple of books on golf (e.g., Paper Tiger), Coyne knows his way around a course, but more importantly, he also knows better than to bore readers with monotonous accounts of hole after hole. His style is more that of the travelogue, as he's bowled over by one astoundingly beautiful and windswept course after the next. By the time Coyne gets to Ulster, it's clear that golf is by far the least interesting thing for him, as the author packs his humorous narrative with historical tales and travel anecdotes about the small towns he passes through and the many pubs he stops in along the way. (Feb.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Take the standard golf memoir, in which a dewy-eyed golfer rhapsodizes his way around the great links courses of Ireland or Scotland, and meld it with the extreme travel book, in which a slightly crazed soul attempts some form of outlandish trek, often involving sports (I Golfed across Mongolia, 2006), and you have something like this peculiar but thoroughly enjoyable account of one man's attempt to turn the whole of Ireland into a golf course. Coyne, author of Paper Tiger (2006), about his failed attempt to qualify for the PGA Tour, decided he needed to take the ultimate golf trip before settling into the responsibilities of parenthood. Like John Garrity in Ancestral Links (2009), Coyne chose to visit Ireland, the land of his ancestors, but unlike Garrity and numerous others, he eschewed the usual creature comforts of traveling golfers. No, Coyne made the entire coast of Ireland his golf links, walking all the way from course to course around the circumference of the country. An outlandish premise, to be sure, and the resulting account hurts the readers' feet almost as much as it did Coyne's. The numbers say it all: 963 holes played over four months at 635 over par, with 129 lost balls. Naturally, there are anecdotes aplenty to spice the on- and off-course frustrations (encounters with livestock and disbelieving locals dominate). Unlike other golf memoirs rife with accounts of idyllic shots hit in the gloaming, this one is not liable to inspire much envy in homebound hackers. Except, perhaps, for the pubs: Coyne visits nearly as many watering holes as he does water holes, and his play-by-play of pub life is every bit as entertaining as his recollections of purely hit five irons. "Equal parts touching, wry, and hilarious." -New York Times "There is no golf trip like an Irish golf trip, and Tom Coyne has risen to meet that road. I look forward to reading this again. Pack it with your sticks." -Bill Murray "Witty and winning...A joy from start to finish." -Wall Street Journal "Like the country itself, Coyne's book is an affable ramble through a charmed land." -Chicago Tribune "A Course Called Ireland explores the history of the land being traveled and pauses for tales both tall and short, as well as, in this case, for pub songs. Coyne finds plenty of all of the above from Kilkee to Kerry, the long way. Golfers reading this book may wish

they'd been walking by Coyne's side." -Boston Globe "A delightful and fun book." -Minneapolis Star-Tribune "A really good read." -The Modesto Bee