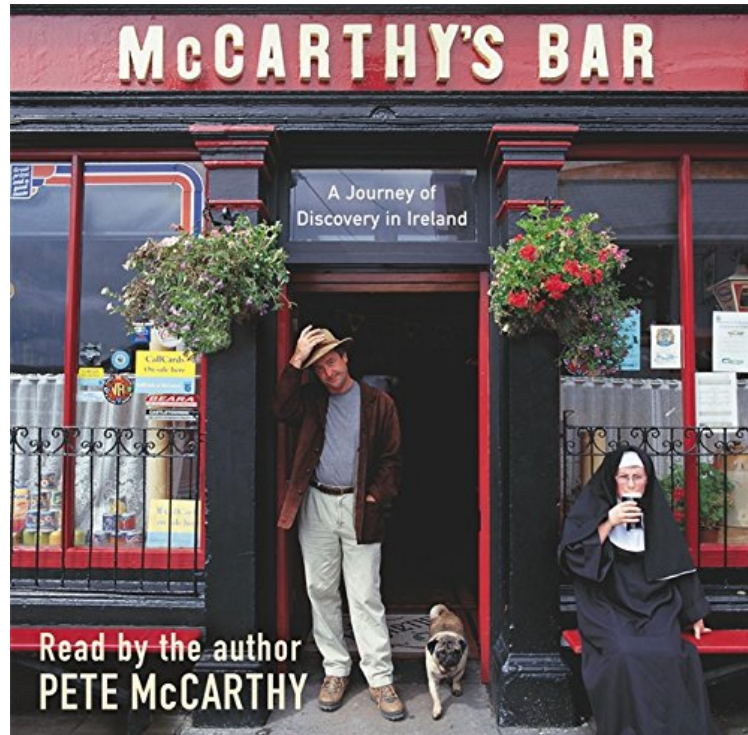


## McCarthy's Bar: A Journey of Discovery in Ireland

*Pete McCarthy*

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**Pete McCarthy : McCarthy's Bar: A Journey of Discovery in Ireland** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised McCarthy's Bar: A Journey of Discovery in Ireland:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Be prepared to laugh out loud  
By Ms. Pocketbook  
It's a little embarrassing to be reading a book in a public place guffaw aloud. It attracts attention but no matter, this book is simply too funny to allow yourself to care what others think. My husband I enjoyed this book tremendously decided to go to McCarthy's Bar in Castletown-Berehaven on our recent trip to Ireland. It's actually Maccarthy's Bar looks exactly the same outside. We met Adrienne Maccarthy 4th generation owner, who is mentioned in the Acknowledgements section of Pete's book. She noted that my son I said we were home when we saw the Kerry Red Stag Family Crest on the wall. We talked to Adrienne for an hour or so when it came time to move on she refused to allow us to pay because we're family said let's go outside for photos. The pooch on the cover is her recently deceased dog, Bailey. She said Pete was a great guy stayed in touch often. We were so glad that the way Pete described the town, the people the other areas in the book are exactly the same now as it was when he originally wrote the book back some 10+ years ago. If you enjoy English Irish humor, you will enjoy this book....just be prepared for people to "give you the look" when you find yourself unable to suppress the laughter that's bubbling out of you.  
4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Required reading before any trip to Ireland!  
By Customer  
I give this book to all my American friends before their first trip to Ireland. Offers great insight to our Irish sense of humour!  
4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful entertainment  
By A. Devlin  
This is one of the funniest and most entertaining books I have read. I have bought copies for more than a dozen of my friends who visited Ireland or intend to or claim

the nationality. Pete McCarthy comes through a lovely man and a clever observer of human behavior with an abundant ability to see the fun in people and to join in their enjoyment himself. I wish I could have met him in a McCarthy's bar somewhere but alas he passed much too young. If you are one of Ireland's potential visitors, this book will speed up your plans. Even if you are not, this book is a great experience; a great laugh. I read a chapter again now and then if I have a sit down day. Highly recommended.

Pete McCarthy's tale of his hilarious trip around Ireland has gained thousands of fans all over the world. Pete was born in Warrington to an Irish mother and an English father and spent happy summer holidays in Cork. Years later, reflecting on the many places he has visited as a travel broadcaster, Pete admits that he feels more at home in Ireland than anywhere. To find out whether this is due to rose-coloured spectacles or to a deeper tie with the country of his ancestors, Pete sets off on a trip around Ireland and discovers that it has changed in surprising ways. Firstly obeying the rule 'never pass a pub with your name on it', he encounters McCarthy's bars up and down the land, and meets English hippies, German musicians, married priests and many others. A funny, affectionate look at one of the most popular countries in the world.

.com Although Pete McCarthy was raised in England, his mother hails from West Cork and, despite never having lived there, he can't shake the strange feeling that Ireland is more home than home. A return pilgrimage reveals immediately why he (or anyone, for that matter) feels "involved and engaged" in Ireland. On arriving at the airport in Cork he's greeted by a guy in a giant rubber Celtic cross getup who's telling jokes with a latter-day St. Patrick (the guy who cast all snakes and pagans out of Ireland). Later, when McCarthy happens to mention that his surname matches that of the pub he's in (ever faithful to his Eighth Rule of Travel: Never pass a bar that has your name on it), the owner buys him a Guinness, invites him to her raucous all-night birthday party, then insists he move to Ireland because, well, obviously he belongs. McCarthy's Second Rule of Travel states: The more bright primary colours and ancient Celtic symbols outside the pub, the more phoney the interior. While the island is turning into a haven for upmarket tourists--and McCarthy offers outstanding examples of bumbleheaded tourists in action--he still finds plenty of pubs where you can buy a bicycle and which still exist primarily as venues for conversation and Irish music sessions. While most travel writers seek out opportunities to meet the famous--or the infamous--McCarthy has the charming knack of just bumping into them on his rambles, which is how he met Noel Redding, formerly of Jimi Hendrix's band, and the author Frank McCourt. Far more interesting, though, are the eccentric and talkative bachelors and landladies who turn up in pubs, B&Bs, and the middle of the road. McCarthy has mastered the art of getting creatively lost, wandering the back lanes of Ireland where the hype of tourism has yet to arrive, pursuing stone circles, impossibly romantic ruined abbeys, and, of course, pubs. What he discovers is that "In Ireland, the unexpected happens more than you expect," which makes for a hilarious tour through one of the most beautiful, friendly, and quirky places on earth with a comedian who has honed the art of telling a good story and of having fun.--Lesley Reed  
From Publishers Weekly  
McCarthy, writer and performer of the BBC series *Desperately Seeking Something*, is a worthy addition to the ranks of P.J. O'Rourke, Bill Bryson and Peter Mayle. English-born to an Irish mother, McCarthy spent childhood summers with relatives in West Cork. As an adult, he travels around the south and west of Ireland on a quasi-pilgrimage culminating in a visit to Lough Derg, an ancient penitential retreat. Following the mandate "Never Pass a Bar That Has Your Name on It," he narrates a series of hilarious and surprising adventures with an acerbic eye and a comedian's gift for timing. Like all good travelers, he encounters an eclectic assortment of characters, including a pagan Christian priest who's rejected the Church, an Anglo-Irish Marquess, Jimi Hendrix's bass player Noel Redding, and Frank McCourt. Although occasionally indulging in tourist stereotyping--e.g., earnest Germans and loud, lazy Americans--McCarthy mines a rich comic vein, yielding delightful, often sidesplitting stories steeped in the peculiarities of British humor. He strikes some serious notes, too, adeptly capturing the impact of Ireland's recent social changes, from its astounding economic growth to the "bungalow blight" marring the beautiful countryside. He visits places where historic tragedies still loom large; his account of a mass grave for potato famine victims is simple and moving. This wonderful debut will appeal to readers who are looking for a well-observed travel guide, or simply for its incisive hilarity. (Mar. 19)  
Forecast: A bestseller in Ireland, this book will surely find an American audience if conspicuously displayed, given the Emerald Isle's current status as a hot vacation spot. The attractive cover photo of the author in front of an Irish bar is a plus.  
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From Library Journal  
Fans of Bill Bryson will enjoy reading McCarthy's droll narrative of his rediscovery of his family's roots in Ireland. Winner of the Travelex Award for Best TV Travel Writer, BBC personality McCarthy takes the reader on an odyssey through Ireland, where he unfailingly obeys his rule: "Never Pass a Bar That Has Your Name On It." The son of an Irishwoman and an Englishman, McCarthy spent many idyllic summers in the Emerald Isle and here revisits places he remembers from his youth. Traversing rural areas from Cork to Donegal, McCarthy observes that although much has changed, the Irish people of his childhood have not. Humorous and history-laden, McCarthy's debut is already a No. 1 best seller in the land of his forefathers and is sure to be popular in public libraries.  
DSandy Knowles,,

