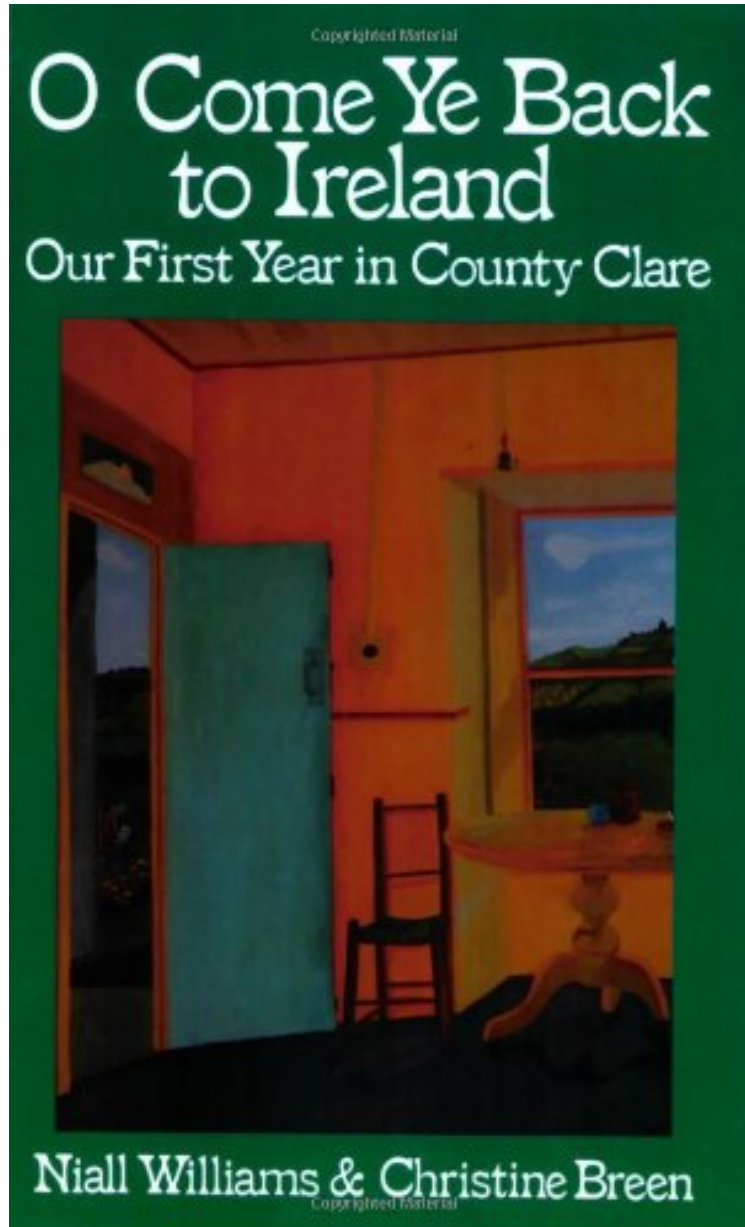


(Mobile pdf) O Come Ye Back to Ireland: Our First Year in County Clare

## O Come Ye Back to Ireland: Our First Year in County Clare

*Niall Williams, Christine Breen*  
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**Niall Williams, Christine Breen** : **O Come Ye Back to Ireland: Our First Year in County Clare** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised O Come Ye Back to Ireland: Our First Year in County Clare:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Makes me long for Ireland and simpler times (but NOT for having to

cut my own turf!)By J. BurnettSomeone told me about this book several years ago, and I meant to read it. But, forgot about it. This cropped up as a recommended read, and I thought, "Oh, yes, I meant to read this!" SO glad I did.Beautifully written, this story of 2 "city slickers" moving to the middle of nowhere in Ireland could have just been farce, and laughter at the expense of others. But, it's not. It's a tribute to the hard working folks who helped them adjust (and survive!) to an almost alien way of life. With good humor, and the kind of great anecdotes folks tell about the ones they love, this book leads you to a time lost to us. Yes, it was only in the 80's, but with the digital age, no one is truly as isolated as they were. This Ireland is almost gone. And, to be able to sit back, and live in it for a while (thru these wonderful authors) is a great privilege and joy.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book: Insightful, interesting, and enjoyable.By Doug JamesChristine and Niall, who is Irish born, are two young 1980's New York professionals that are off to Ireland for a years adventure. The book is created by sharing and melding the contents of each person's diary of first year thoughts about their adventure.They leave the creature comforts of Manhattan for a rural cottage in remote County Clare, Republic of Ireland. The cottage belonged to Christine's grandfather. The cottages walls do no challenge the wind as it mostly filters through as it wishes. The cottage interior and exterior require a good bit of work to brave the Irish elements of persistent rain and the ever present wind. The cottage garden presents another opportunity to learn about the Irish weather.Christine And Niall expend great efforts to learn about local customs, neighbors, and what is required to fit in and survive in a new "world" and very different environment. Upon arrival the local phone exchange still has a operator; a phone installation takes months; a bed delivery, once it arrives in Ireland, is a few months away; satellite/cable T.V. Is non existent; grocery stores, the Chemist (drug store), hospital, doctor, etc., are miles away.The couple share with us the creation and development of a new Irish life from how to grow potatoes and vegetables, cutting "turf" for a year long fire, raising chickens, and cattle (three cows and calves). Niall attends and graduates from a two month "farmers" course.They explain and detail the human side of Irish life from funerals to the ethos of neighbor helping neighbor. Christine sells a few paintings, they revive the local drama society and receive a few awards.All of the above is written about in a concise and descriptive style that keeps the story moving in an informative and interesting journey that makes you want to cheer for their hard work and success. Well done!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Home to Ireland--a Creative AdventureBy L. BrannelTwo New Yorkers with ties to Ireland return there to live, learn to farm, live (almost) off the grid, and pursue a creative life. A struggle to adapt to the place, learn survival techniques, make connections in the community, rehab the farm. But entertaining and inspiring! Captures a certain time in Ireland's long history when some began Americans began to return to their roots in the land. Great for the armchair traveler (and homesteader).

Niall and Christine left their careers in New York City for a simpler, more authentic life in a cottage outside the tiny village of Kilmihil in County Clare. "Their tale is a delightful romance."—The New York Times Book Review

From Publishers WeeklyA New York City couple, who gave up their urban existence to settle in the tiny village of Kilmihil on Ireland's west coast, here recount their adaption. "Entertaining and instructive," said PW , the work "captures a way of life foreign to most readers." Illustrated. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalIn 1985, Williams and Breen left their New York City publishing jobs and moved to remote County Clare in western Ireland. Breen had planned to paint and Williams to write, but when their food, shelter, and even energy source depended on their own effortsand the weather, which in the west of Ireland means rainthe two found it necessary to alter their plans in order to survive. The reader will find out about the impact of rain on the region, the interdependence of neighbors, and, most of all, what it is like to live in what society considers "poverty." While the authors continued to have doubts about their decision, their charming account often reads like a novel and is recommended for most collections. Boyd Childress, Auburn Univ. Lib., Ala.Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc.