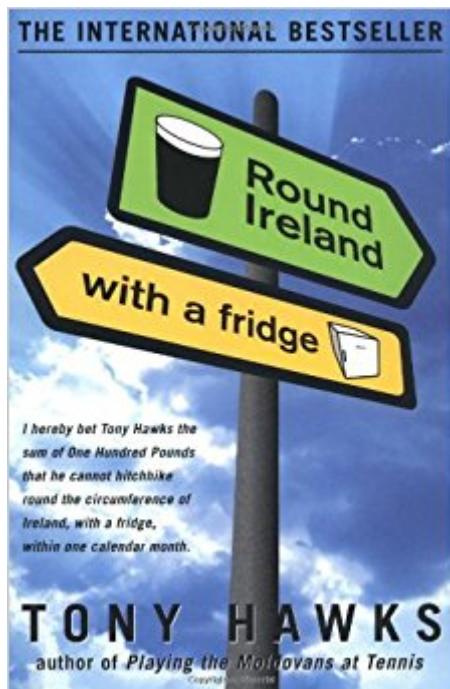


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Round Ireland With A Fridge



Synopsis

Have you ever made a drunken bet? Worse, still, have you ever tried to win one? In attempting to hitchhike round Ireland with a fridge, Tony Hawks did both, and his foolhardiness led him to one of the best experiences of his life. Joined by his trusty traveling companion-cum-domestic appliance, he made his way from Dublin to Donegal, from Sligo through Mayo, Galway, Clare, Kerry, Cork, Wexford, Wicklow--and back again to Dublin. In their month of madness, Tony and his fridge met a real prince, a bogus king, and the fridge got christened. They surfed together, entered a bachelor festival, and one of them had sex without the other knowing. And unexpectedly, the fridge itself became a momentary focus for the people of Ireland. An international bestseller, *Round Ireland with a Fridge* is a classic travel adventure in the tradition of Bill Bryson with a dash of Dave Barry.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

On his only prior visit to Ireland, English songwriter-comic Tony Hawks had seen a man hitchhiking with a refrigerator. For years, he was wont to tell the tale during late-night drinking matches, and after one particularly heavy-duty night of partying, he awoke to find a bet scrawled pillowside: a friend wagered 100 pounds that Hawks wouldn't travel Ireland for a month with a refrigerator at his side. Out of this stupid premise, a ridiculously amusing book was born. Quickly discovered by the Irish media, the thumbing Englishman finds that he and his box fridge are elevated to celebrity status, and there's no dearth of rides, places to stay, or goofy people to meet, from kings to spoons players to locals who take his fridge surfing. As insightful about the strange inner workings of Hawk's mind as it is about charming peculiarities of Irishmen--it's doubtful that Hawks would have

been similarly embraced by Germans, Italians, or the French--Round Ireland with a Fridge is an entirely silly, heartwarming tale told in a rollicking funny and refreshing style. --Melissa Rossi --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

When British writer, performer and musician Hawks makes a drunken bet for ?100 that he can "hitchhike round the circumference of Ireland, with a fridge, in one calendar month," he starts, in 1997, an unexpectedly wonderful adventure into the good-natured soul of the Irish people. Though the book begins inauspiciously as a bad parody of Dave Barry's travel books, with Hawks assuming a smug distance from the people and events he encounters, happily fate intervenes in the form of a jovial radio-show host who convinces Hawks to phone in daily to share updates about his travels with the fridge. Almost overnight, Hawks becomes a regional legendA"The Fridge Man"Awit all sorts of people willing to help him achieve his goal, however silly it may be. What could have been a convenient contrivance actually allows a kinder and far funnier Hawks to appear, as his daily talks with his radio "fans" bring him unexpected delights, including encounters with an overenthusiastic innkeeper and his family, the amazing champion surfer Bingo, various musicians and lots of pub visits. In the end, Hawks's book becomes a lively celebration of contemporary Irish society and the goodwill of its people that neither revels in irony nor descends into mawkishness. (Mar.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Don't read this book unless you can stand to laugh - a lot. This is like Douglas Adams having a conversation with Tom Robbins as recorded by Bill Bryson and read by Stephan Frye. Tony Hawks is the next great voice in comedic travel journalism - amoung the other three. Read everything he has written and will write and your life will be better for it. He visits a king, attends sheep trails, tries out at a bachelor competition, goes surfing in the North Sea, falls off a wall kissing a girl and gets laid in a dog house - along with traveling the sights and back towns of the emerald isle where-in he becomes a local hero and an international legend. Plus he wins a cracking good bet in the end.

Tony Hawks journey around Ireland is something you need to read to understand. Filled with pure, good human humor and hospitality through and through, definitely a worth while read. My biggest complaint would have to be the author's name (which he can't really control, can he?). It's almost impossible to look him up thanks to that pro skater. Also, in the center of the book are included a few pictures of his journey and people he met- however, Tony neglects to include a PICTURE OF THE

FRIDGE SURFING. He explicitly mentions taking it, and it's a shame we couldn't see it. Ah well.

Tony Hawks is a British comedian who, while drinking with some friends, decided to enter into a bet that he could transport a small fridge around Ireland using basically only the kindness of strangers. There are some other rules, and the premise seemed pretty funny. I expected anecdotes of quirky Irish barkeeps, maybe some Brit-Irish tension etc. What I got instead was Tony Hawks trying pretty hard to get me to like him. Every story centered around how very quirky and socially inappropriate he is, and he is right; I didn't finish the book. I got some laughs out of it, but in general the whole thing is very one-note, like somebody telling their "I got drunk at the bar and it got so CRAZY" story at every party to anyone who will listen.

I love this book. The premise is that due to a bet while under the influence he has to hitchhike around the perimeter of Ireland in a month. The fact that he paid more for the fridge than the value of the wager makes the concept even more entertaining. Some have criticized (I believe unfairly) the book for not being a detailed travel journal. I think that is a factually correct statement, but the point here is not to be a serious travel guide, but to be a humor book about funny experiences during a very odd odyssey. There are many amusing moments in the book, some of which are so well written that they made me laugh out loud. Purists may argue that it is a rather smallish fridge, but I don't think that matters; it's the concept of hitchhiking in a foreign country with a large, ungainly peculiar object that matters here. Tony Hawks is a very strange, and very funny man. If you are interested in a book filled with unusual comic characters and situations, this would be hard to beat.

This is a great, light read! I truly laughed out loud reading parts of this silly, whimsical, true story!

This story reads like fiction; it's hard to believe that it's true, yet it is! It's in the same vein as Bill Bryson's "A Walk in the Woods", and will make you laugh out loud.

Very fun reading. Sort of the same thing, the same funny or sweet little stories, over and over though, so I lost interest a little by the time I was 80% through it. Still totally worth buying, a different kind of story.

An amusing book and a light read. Been to so many places Tony travels that it was like being there again. I liked the premise of the story, but was disappointed to find he was able to accomplish his

journey due to extensive daily radio coverage. Everyone was looking for the "man with the fridge" to give him a ride. I wonder how the story would have unfolded without all the publicity? Regardless, it was still an enjoyable read and his adventures were amazing!

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