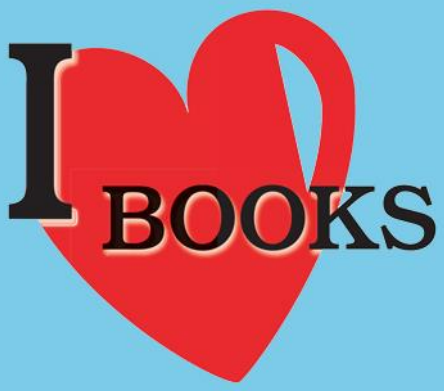


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extracts from

Patrick and the President

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Patrick raced home to change into a crisp shirt and tie (new) and freshly ironed shorts (old), and from there he made his way to Dunganstown, to his Swiss roll.

At the homestead, the world's press were waiting.
Mrs Ryan was on the ball: there were starched doilies, freshly-cut triangle sandwiches, a smoked salmon centrepiece and a cake, emblazoned with a picture of the president himself.

Inside the house, Patrick found a corner of the kitchen where he could be by himself. He plucked a knife from the drawer and, holding his breath, began to delicately cut the cake.

One ... two ... three ... four ...
nearly there ...
five!

Phew!

Perfect.



THE STORY OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY'S VISIT TO IRELAND IN 1963

In 1960, forty-three year-old John Fitzgerald Kennedy was elected president of the United States – the youngest and the first ever Catholic to hold that office. On 22 November, 1963, JFK was assassinated in Dallas, Texas. The death of this charismatic and energetic world leader was mourned the world over, and to this day he is considered one of the best-loved figures in American history.

John F. Kennedy always had close personal ties to Ireland. In the late 1840s, during the devastating potato famine, all eight of his great-grandparents left Ireland and immigrated to Boston, Massachusetts, where several family members became successful politicians. JFK treasured his Irish heritage, and after his presidential inauguration he was determined to return to his ancestral home and walk once more in the footsteps of his forefathers.

In April 1963, it was announced in Ireland that the American president was coming to visit. His trip was planned with military precision, and at every stop along his four-day trip tens of thousands of people flocked to catch a glimpse of him. JFK's visit to Ireland became, for a whole generation of Irish people, a momentous and unforgettable occasion in their lives.

***"This is not the land of my birth but it is the land for which I hold the greatest affection."* – John F. Kennedy**



Credit: John Dominis/The LIFE Picture Collection/Getty Images

The motorcade of President John F. Kennedy makes its way down crowd-lined O'Connell Street during his visit to Dublin.

26 JUNE 1963 – DAY ONE

Dublin
At 8 p.m., Air Force One touches down at Dublin Airport. JFK is greeted by President Éamon de Valera and Taoiseach Seán Lemass. The Irish and American presidents both make short, formal speeches. With a 25 man motorcycle escort, they then make their way to Áras an Uachtaráin in Phoenix Park, the residence of the Irish president. As the motorcade passes through the city centre, more than 60,000 people line O'Connell Street to catch a glimpse of Kennedy.

27 JUNE 1963 – DAY TWO

New Ross
JFK travels by helicopter to O'Kennedy Park in New Ross, County Wexford. From the air, he sees the word FÁILTE (WELCOME) spelled out by the shapes of children from the local school. A smiling and waving Kennedy is greeted by the Artane Boys' Band, and a choir of 300 schoolchildren sing "The Boys of Wexford", known to be a favourite of the president's. The president walks over and joins in on the second chorus, causing one American photographer to burst into tears. Afterwards, President Kennedy shakes hands with as many schoolchildren as he can reach. Later, addressing the crowds at the quays in New Ross, JFK says, "I am glad to be here. It took 115 years to make this trip. And 6,000 miles. And three generations. And I am proud to be here."



Credit: Bettmann/Getty Images

John F. Kennedy interacts with a child in the crowd while he visits his family's ancestral home in Dunganstown.

Dunganstown
JFK is driven to the Kennedy family homestead in Dunganstown, County Wexford. He is greeted by his distant cousin Mary Ryan and meets many more members of the extended Ryan and Kennedy families. After visiting his cousins, JFK admires the feast that has been prepared for him outside: scones, Swiss rolls, sandwiches and tea. There is even a large cake with his image on the icing. Kennedy remarks, "We want to drink a cup of tea to all the Kennedys who went and all the Kennedys who stayed."

Wexford Harbour
At the Wexford harbourside, Kennedy lays a wreath in memory of Wexford-born commodore John Barry, America's first commissioned naval officer, and is presented with the Freedom of the Town of Wexford.

Dublin: Iveagh House
Kennedy attends a state dinner and reception at the Department of External Affairs, Iveagh House, St Stephen's Green, in his honour.

28 JUNE 1963 – DAY THREE

Cork
Kennedy travels to Cork by helicopter and attends a reception in his honour.

Dublin: Arbour Hill
Kennedy returns to Dublin and visits Arbour Hill Cemetery, where he places a wreath on the graves of the executed leaders of the 1916 Easter Rising, becoming the first foreign head of state to honour them in a formal ceremony.

Leinster House
Kennedy addresses a Joint Sitting of the Houses of the Oireachtas (legislature) in Leinster House. A huge crowd gathers outside, awaiting a glimpse of the president.

Dublin Castle
Kennedy makes his way to St Patrick's Hall in Dublin Castle, where he receives honorary degrees from both the National University of Ireland and Dublin University.

29 JUNE 1963 – DAY FOUR

Galway
On his visit to Galway, Kennedy tells the gathered crowd, "If the day was clear enough, and if you went down to the bay and you looked west, and your sight was good enough, you would see Boston, Massachusetts."

Limerick
Kennedy greets crowds at Greenpark Racecourse in Limerick.

Shannon
Before his departure from Shannon Airport, Kennedy is heard to remark, "I wish I could stay here for another week, or another month."



Credit: Aubrey Hein/George Hudson Archive/Getty Images

John F. Kennedy is served tea and cake by his distant cousin Mary Ryan at his Dunganstown homestead.