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Fascinating stories, quirky facts, and lesser-known tales about...

## Ireland · Irish People · Irish History · Irish Culture

### LEARN...

- Why Irish redheads are so darned sexy
- How the Murphy bed was invented by Irish immigrants
- Why Dracula is linked to a cruel Irish Lord and the Famine
- The location of Ireland's oldest pub—more than 500 years old
- Why it should be WhisK-E-Y or it's **not** from Ireland
- That the Emerald Isle is only 3/4 the size of Maine

### DISCOVER...

- How an Irish mill worker invented sneakers
- That the Great Gatsby is based on a real-life Irish stockbroker
- How Duty Free shopping started in Ireland
- That St. Patrick actually wasn't Irish
- Which Irish monument is 600 years older than the Pyramids

Not to mention the full scoop on Riverdance, Guinness, and how the Irish invented the Oscar...

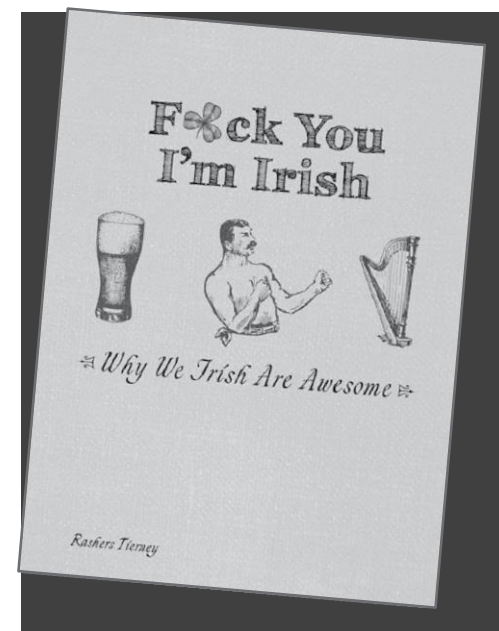
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### Book Excerpt:

#### Streetwise Slang from the Old Country

In case you think the only phrases the Irish brought to the New World were "colleen" and "Erin go bragh" let's just set the record straight, shall we?

Using 'buns' to refer to a shapely rear end probably comes from the Gaelic geographic term *bunn* for base or lower part, as in the 'bottom of a hill'.

Then there's slogan. We're familiar with it nowadays from bland advertising campaigns. However, it's derived from the rousing *slua ghairm*, which means "the yell of the crowd" or a "battle cry."

Suddenly, all those phony catchphrases seem livelier, especially if you know that phony is said to come from *fáinne*, the Gaelic word for ring. Passing off brass trinkets as gold was one means of earning money for Irish immigrants who weren't experiencing too much of that famous Irish luck.. Ya dig? I'm sure you do, as dig in this context is a form of the Irish verb *tuig*, to understand.

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