

# [PDF] Stalking Irish Madness: Searching For The Roots Of My Family's Schizophrenia

Patrick Tracey - pdf download free book

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**Books Details:**

Title: Stalking Irish Madness: Search

Author: Patrick Tracey

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**Description:**

**From Publishers Weekly** After describing the sudden onset of madness in one of his older sisters, followed two years later by his younger sister's, Tracey seeks to understand the legacy of schizophrenia that has haunted his family for generations, traced back to his great-great-grandmother Mary Egan, who emigrated from Ireland. His search takes him first to County Roscommon, the mythic center of Ireland, where he explores the Irish lore of fairies who, according to myth, capture minds from those who lose them. Tracey then travels to Dublin to consider more scientific explanations for schizophrenia, but even Dr. Dermot Walsh, who helped link the dysbindin gene to this mental state, cannot offer anything conclusive. He concludes his travels at Gleanna-a-

Galt where he finds the legendary well his mother told him about when he was a child, a well said to make the mad whole again. In a symbolic gesture—at a loss for anything else he can do—he procures two bottles of the healing water for his sisters. While Tracey finds no conclusive answers, his book helps to dispel misconceptions about schizophrenia and reveals the various attempts by experts to make sense of this mental illness. (*Sept.*)

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**From School Library Journal** This harrowing first memoir follows journalist Tracey's search for the roots of his family's "Irish madness," i.e., schizophrenia. As he traverses Ireland in a renovated camper, he visits sites that may have been cursed by the Druids, fairy mounds, and ancient shrines, trying to separate fact from fiction. He even interviews the Irish research team that first discovered the gene code for schizophrenia. Spared the disease himself, he records the anxiety his mother felt about having children and reveals his father's vain conviction, common in the 1940s and 1950s, that a stable household and good parenting would prevail over mental illness. Powerfully moving, Tracey's investigation will fascinate anyone interested in the mysteries of mental illness.—Elizabeth Brinkley

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