If you read the NY Times or the Irish papers, you know that a young Irish woman won the Olympic gold medal in boxing – Ireland’s first gold medal in the 2012 games, and only the ninth gold in Irish history. This was also the first lightweight gold medal in Olympic women's boxing,

Twenty-six year old Katie Taylor from Bray, Co. Wicklow, raised her arms in triumph, mouthed her thanks to God, while the fans responded with deafening cheers. She took her medal, caressed it and kissed it and hugged her Russian opponent. As she was leaving the arena in the official parade, somebody gave Taylor a Tricolour. She draped it over her shoulders and ran a jubilant lap of honor, the spotlight tracing her skipping path.

Ireland had stopped still at 4.30 on Thursday, August 9th. Virtually everyone was watching the match. In her hometown, crowds, gathered by the thousands from all over the country, erupted in pure joyous pandemonium. This was Ireland’s day, a welcome bright spot after the grayness of the recession.

Katie had dreamed of this day through sixteen years of training, coached by her own father. A four-time world champion, she is regarded as Ireland’s foremost athlete. The Irish Independent newspaper once said Taylor was “as real as Mary Poppins, a fairy tale hurtling toward a happy ending.” A dream come true – for Katie and for Ireland.