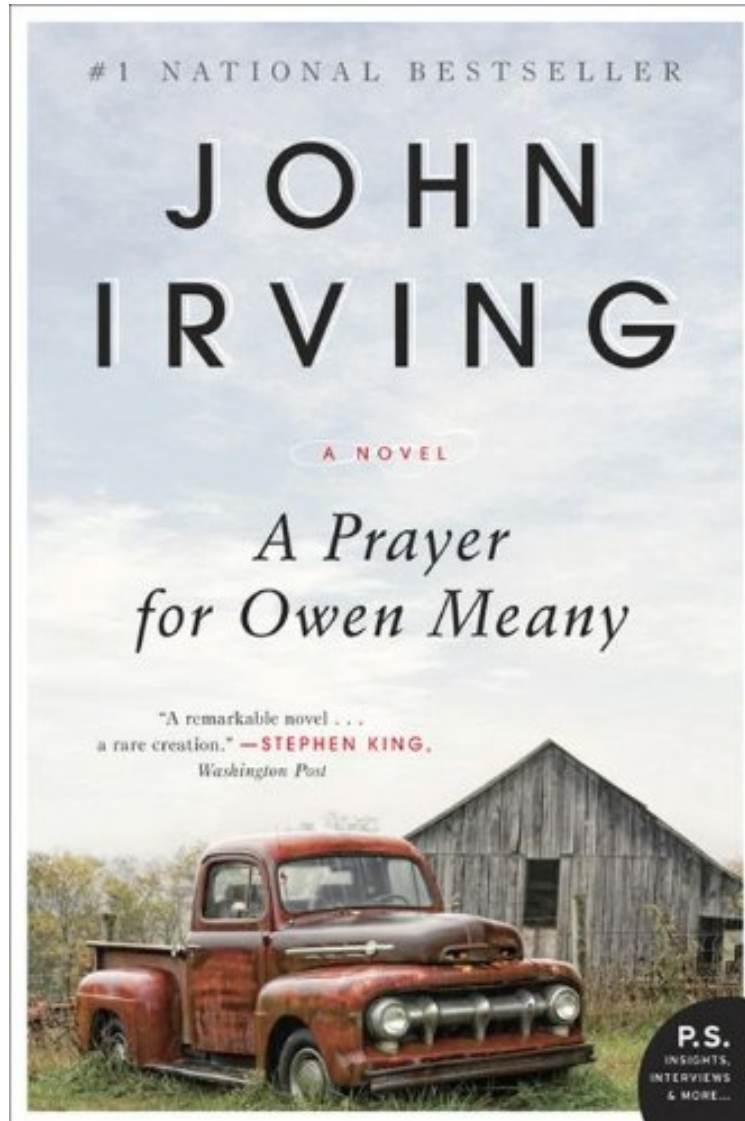


(Get free) A Prayer for Owen Meany: A Novel

A Prayer for Owen Meany: A Novel

Von John Irving

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Von John Irving : A Prayer for Owen Meany: A Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Prayer for Owen Meany: A Novel:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. I only give 5 stars 'cause I can't give it 10!Von Ein KundeThere are some 800+ reviews of this book, and if you just casually glance at them, you'll note that this is the best novel ever written. Not the best of the 20th century, or the best American book, or the greatest prep-school based book, or anything else - it's just the best book ever written. I was

hounded into reading A PRAYER FOR OWEN MEANY. My ex-wife kept telling me to read it, that I would love it - this is when we'd already been divorced for 2 years. Finally, she sent me a post card asking me if I'd read it yet, and closed with the line, "You are my Owen Meany." I had to know what she meant, exactly, so I bought a copy and read it. Before I even finished, I knew what she said was the nicest thing anyone had ever said to me. Don't get hounded into reading this book - simply go to every bookstore you have to go to until you find a copy, then buy it, head straight home, take your phone off the hook and start reading. Soon, you'll be hounding others into reading this wonderful, beautiful masterpiece.1 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Best Book I've Read This Year Von Kevin Wohler I started reading A Prayer for Owen Meany at the urging of a friend, part of our on-going reading program. She had just started the novel, and said it was funny and I would enjoy it. I never expected that it would move me so. John Irving has written a profound novel of faith, friendship, and fate. It took me one or two sections to understand Irving's style. He likes to jump around a lot, and as the story is written as a memoir, that is certainly understandable. But Johnny Wheelwright (the narrative voice of the story) wants to tell us too much, too fast, and it doesn't all make sense at first. Only one thing is clear from the beginning: Owen Meany is destined to change Johnny's life. Owen and Johnny are friends in New Hampshire in the 1950s. They have a unique bond which due in part to Owen's extraordinary presence. The dwarfed child has a strange voice that chills most people (including Johnny's grandmother), but he also has an adult-like wisdom and understanding. The bond between Owen and Johnny is sealed by a freak accident when Owen hits a baseball, killing Johnny's mother. As they grow up, it becomes clear to Johnny that Owen thinks he is guided by God. The accident with Johnny's mother is just one incident that ultimately will lead Johnny to find his own faith. There are moments of biting humor in the novel as well as moments of sadness. Although the majority of the story centers on Johnny's childhood, it continues through his high school and college years. As expected for the setting, Kennedy and the Vietnam War become important themes throughout the story. There are also moments when Johnny -- writing the novel in 1987 -- steps out of character to tell the reader in a diary-like fashion about his life in the present as a teacher. These "present day" episodes were the only thing about the novel I didn't like. Irving seems to be using the novel to criticize American politics (certainly a theme throughout the novel), but it never quite fits with the main plot, that of Owen and his influence on Johnny. I think the story would have been less bitter - and certainly shorter - if Irving had left out this editorializing. I will always remember the stunning foreshadowing of the novel and the beautiful imagery that Irving writes. The story not only challenged me on an intellectual basis, but also on a spiritual one.3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Molesters, Heroes and Prayers, OH MY! Von Corrine E. Light I would not recommend this book to anyone that doesn't have the patience or gets bored easily! It takes lots of time and patience to eventually appreciate this over lengthed book. You just sit reading and waiting for the writer to get to the point or even to the plot. It never really specified a direct plot. Is the story more "Who is Johnny's father?" or "Why is it Owen is not so normal?". This book leads you into many different what if's and why questions. The author makes you read way too much into the stupid little things. (The authors non-stop repeating himself over and over again about things that pertain nothing to the direct story.) I get really annoyed with the never ending talk of religion. The author has the character tell about every little thing about every damn thing he learned and could remember about religion. He side tracks so much, that I think he could have left out the 300 pages to much that would have left this incredibly long story, sweet and to the point. I did enjoy the basic plot of this story with its unusual characters and exceptional heroism. Owen Meany, the main character, goes through so many changes physically, mentally, and spiritually that I admired what he over came in his inner and outer struggles with what's his meaning really is here on earth.

Kurzbeschreibung I am doomed to remember a boy with a wrecked voice not because of his voice, or because he was the smallest person I ever knew, or even because he was the instrument of my mother's death, but because he is the reason I believe in God; I am a Christian because of Owen Meany. In the summer of 1953, two eleven-year-old boys best friends are playing in a Little League baseball game in Gravesend, New Hampshire. One of the boys hits a foul ball that kills the other boy's mother. The boy who hits the ball doesn't believe in accidents; Owen Meany believes he is God's instrument. What happens to Owen after that 1953 foul ball is extraordinary. Owen Meany is a dwarfish boy with a strange voice who accidentally kills his best friend's mom with a baseball and believes--accurately--that he is an instrument of God, to be redeemed by martyrdom. John Irving's novel, which inspired the 1998 Jim Carrey movie Simon Birch, is his most popular book in Britain, and perhaps the oddest Christian mystic novel since Flannery O'Connor's work. Irving fans will find much that is familiar: the New England prep-school-town setting, symbolic amputations of man and beast, the Garp-like unknown father of the narrator (Owen's orphaned best friend), the rough comedy. The scene of doltish the doltish headmaster driving a trashed VW down the school's marble staircase is a marvelous set piece. So are the Christmas pageants Owen stars in. But it's all, as Highlights magazine used to put it, "fun with a purpose." When Owen plays baby Jesus in the pageants, and glimpses a tombstone with his death date while enacting A Christmas Carol, the slapstick doesn't cancel the fact that he was born to be martyred. The book's

countless subplots add up to a moral argument, specifically an indictment of American foreign policy--from Vietnam to the Contras. The book's mystic religiosity is steeped in Robertson Davies's Deptford trilogy, and the fatal baseball relates to the fatefully misdirected snowball in the first Deptford novel, *Fifth Business*. Tiny, symbolic Owen echoes the hero of Irving's teacher Gnter Grass's *The Tin Drum*--the two characters share the same initials. A rollicking entertainment, *Owen Meany* is also a meditation on literature, history, and God. --Tim Appelo.co.uk

Owen Meany is a dwarfish boy with a strange voice who accidentally kills his best friend's mum with a baseball and believes--correctly, it transpires--that he is an instrument of God, to be redeemed by martyrdom. John Irving's novel, which inspired the 1998 Jim Carrey movie *Simon Birch*, is his most popular book in Britain, and perhaps the oddest Christian mystic novel since Flannery O'Connor's work. Irving fans will find much that is familiar: the New England prep-school-town setting, symbolic amputations of man and beast, the Garp-like unknown father of the narrator (Owen's orphaned best friend), the rough comedy. The scene of doltish Dr Dolder, Owen's shrink, drunkenly driving his VW down the school's marble steps is a marvellous set piece. So are the Christmas pageants Owen stars in. But it's all, as *Highlights* magazine used to put it, "fun with a purpose". When Owen plays baby Jesus in the pageants, and glimpses a tombstone with his death date while enacting *A Christmas Carol*, the slapstick doesn't change the fact that he was born to be martyred. The book's countless subplots add up to a moral argument, specifically an indictment of American foreign policy--from Vietnam to the Contras. The book's mystic religiosity is steeped in Robertson Davies' Deptford trilogy, and the fatal baseball relates to the fatefully misdirected snowball in the first Deptford novel, *Fifth Business*. Tiny, symbolic Owen echoes the hero of Irving's teacher Gnter Grass's *The Tin Drum*--the two characters share the same initials. A rollicking entertainment, *Owen Meany* is also a meditation on literature, history and God. --Tim Appelo