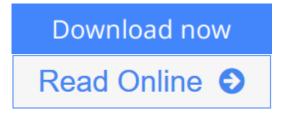


# **Trying to Save Piggy Sneed**

By John Irving



## Trying to Save Piggy Sneed By John Irving

Here is a treat for John Irving addicts and a perfect introduction to his work for the uninitiated. To open this spirited collection, Irving explains how he became a writer. There follow six scintillating stories written over the last twenty years ending with a homage to Charles Dickens. This irresistible collection cannot fail to delight and charm.



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## Trying to Save Piggy Sneed By John Irving Bibliography

• Sales Rank: #877939 in Books

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• Binding: Paperback

• 464 pages

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#### **Editorial Review**

### From Publishers Weekly

Irving proves himself, once again, a garrulous and engaging raconteur in this collection of fiction and nonfiction divided into three sections: Memoirs, Fiction and Homage. In the last, while admiring the work of Gunter Grass, he notes that "Grass is never so insecure as to be polite." Given Irving's fascination with the malfunctioning or assaulted human body, one can't help feeling that he's defending his own work?both acne (in the story, "Brennbar's Rant") and genital warts (the O. Henry Prize-winning "Interior Space") figure in these pages. Sometimes, however, Irving's grotesquerie lacks the compassion with which his favorite writer, Dickens, moderated his caricatures. In the title essay (in which Irving relates his discovery of the powers of fiction-making), Piggy Sneed, the retarded garbage collector and pig farmer whose disappearance stimulates Irving's imagination, is harshly ridiculed: Sneed "smelled worse than any man I ever smelled?with the possible exception of a dead man I caught the scent of, once, in Istanbul." There are other, more engaging pieces: an amusing account of a dinner at the Reagan White House; an early, sentimental story, "Weary Kingdom," about a lonely woman; and, best of all, "The Imaginary Girlfriend," a rambling autobiographical sketch with a heavy emphasis on the mentors and rivals who shaped Irving's defining obsessions?wrestling and writing. Each of the 12 sections is followed by "Author's Notes"; "The Imaginary Girlfriend" is supplemented with personal photographs (not seen by PW). 150,000 first printing; BOMC selection; author tour.

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## From Library Journal

When the going gets tough, the tough...go through their desk drawers. John Irving has not been on top of his game since The Cider House Rules (LJ 6/1/85) and in an effort to showcase the old talent, Irving offers a collection of past writings. Not strictly a work of fiction, Sneed includes memoirs, short stories, and "Homages"-tributes to Charles Dickens and Gunter Grass. Written in 1967 when Irving was a student at the Iowa Writer's Workshop, "Weary Kingdom," about a middle-aged dorm mother at a Boston college, reveals a maturing writer, growing comfortable portraying the quirky aspects of his subjects that characterize his work. "The Imaginary Girlfriend," the most recent of the essays (to be illustrated with Irving's photos-not seen), outlines the parallel lines of his wrestling career and reading history. In spite of its unevenness, Sneed is recommended for fiction and literature collections based on Irving's reputation.

Adam Mazmanian, "Library Journal"

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## From Scientific American

A first for Irving: a collection of memoirs, short fiction, and essays. *Trying to Save Piggy Sneed* features tributes to Dickens and Gunter Grass, whose novels percolate with a political and moral courage Irving admires. It also includes six short stories, a form Irving doesn't claim as his own. Reminiscences round out the collection, from caustic recollections of an awkward dinner with former President Reagan to the title piece, in which the death of his town's garbage collector symbolically sparked the teenage Irving's desire to write.

#### **Users Review**

#### From reader reviews:

#### **Vivian Bennett:**

The knowledge that you get from Trying to Save Piggy Sneed could be the more deep you searching the information that hide inside the words the more you get serious about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to be aware of but Trying to Save Piggy Sneed giving you joy feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in specific way that can be understood by means of anyone who read it because the author of this e-book is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your personal vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having that Trying to Save Piggy Sneed instantly.

### **Brenda Wright:**

The publication with title Trying to Save Piggy Sneed has a lot of information that you can find out it. You can get a lot of advantage after read this book. This kind of book exist new knowledge the information that exist in this reserve represented the condition of the world right now. That is important to yo7u to learn how the improvement of the world. This book will bring you inside new era of the globalization. You can read the e-book on the smart phone, so you can read the idea anywhere you want.

#### **Maria Antoine:**

The book untitled Trying to Save Piggy Sneed contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains the woman idea with easy method. The language is very easy to understand all the people, so do definitely not worry, you can easy to read that. The book was compiled by famous author. The author brings you in the new age of literary works. You can read this book because you can read more your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can start their official web-site and order it. Have a nice read.

### **Jacqueline Thompson:**

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