



The Imaginary Girlfriend

By John Irving

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The Imaginary Girlfriend By John Irving

Dedicated to the memory of two wrestling coaches and two writer friends, *The Imaginary Girlfriend* is John Irving's candid memoir of his twin careers in writing and wrestling. The award-winning author of best-selling novels from *The World According to Garp* to *In One Person*, Irving began writing when he was fourteen, the same age at which he began to wrestle at Exeter. He competed as a wrestler for twenty years, was certified as a referee at twenty-four, and coached the sport until he was forty-seven. Irving coached his sons Colin and Brendan to New England championship titles, a championship that he himself was denied.

In an autobiography filled with the humor and compassion one finds in his fiction, Irving explores the interrelationship between the two disciplines of writing and wrestling, from the days when he was a beginner at both until his fourth wrestling related surgery at the age of fifty-three. Writing as a father and mentor, he offers a lucid portrait of those—writers and wrestlers from Kurt Vonnegut to Ted Seabrooke—who played a mentor role in his development as a novelist, wrestler, and wrestling coach. He reveals lessons he learned about the pursuit for which he is best known, writing. “And,” as the *Denver Post* observed, in filling “his narrative with anecdotes that are every bit as hilarious as the antics in his novels, Irving combines the lessons of both obsessions (wrestling and writing) . . . into a somber reflection on the importance of living well.”

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The Imaginary Girlfriend By John Irving Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

“THE NEAREST THING TO AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY IRVING HAS WRITTEN . . . WORTH SAVING AND SAVORING.”

–*The Seattle Times*

“IRVING’S WRESTLING COACHES, HIS WRITING MENTORS, AND HIS FAMILY ARE VIVID, INVITING READERS INTO A COLORFUL WORLD.”

–*USA Today*

“A MASTERPIECE . . . THE GENEROSITY OF SPIRIT THAT MARKS HIS FICTION LEAKS INTO HIS MEMOIR IN TENDER AND SURPRISING WAYS.”

–*Edmonton Journal*

From the Inside Flap

“The Imaginary Girlfriend is a miniature autobiography detailing Irving's parallel careers of writing and wrestling. . . . Tales of encounters with writers (John Cheever, Nelson Algren, Kurt Vonnegut) are intertwined with those about his wrestling teammates and coaches. With humor and compassion, [Irving] details the few truly important lessons he learned about writing. . . . And in beefing up his narrative with anecdotes that are every bit as hilarious as the antics in his novels, Irving combines the lessons of both obsessions (wrestling and writing) . . . into a somber reflection on the importance of living well.”

–“The ”Denver Post

From the Back Cover

“THE NEAREST THING TO AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY IRVING HAS WRITTEN . . . WORTH SAVING AND SAVORING.”

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–*Edmonton Journal*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Nancy Wiersma:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important take action, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a guide. Beside you can solve your condition; you can add your knowledge by the reserve entitled The Imaginary Girlfriend. Try to make the book The Imaginary Girlfriend as your buddy. It means that it can being your friend when you feel alone and beside that of course make you

smarter than in the past. Yeah, it is very fortunate for you. The book makes you more confident because you can know anything by the book. So, we should make new experience in addition to knowledge with this book.

Clarence Hamm:

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John Valdez:

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Denise Church:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the coastal world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, thrilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition associated with. Even you love The Imaginary Girlfriend, you may enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout people. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

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