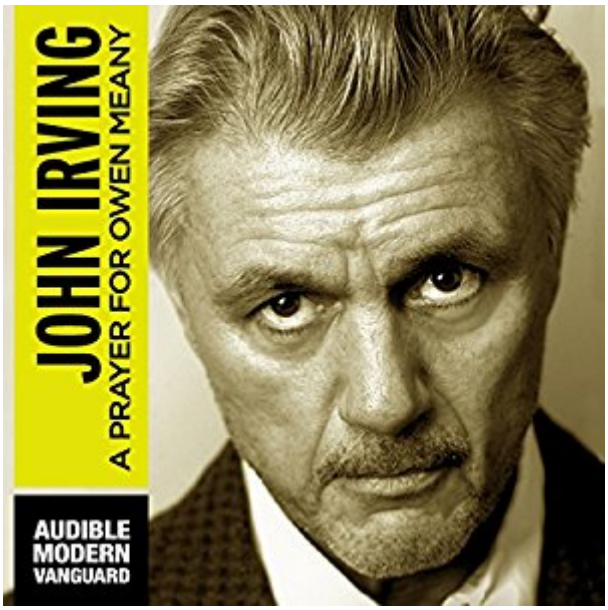
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A Prayer For Owen Meany



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Synopsis

In the summer of 1953, two eleven-year-old boysÃ¢â ¬â •best friendsÃ¢â ¬â •are playing in a Little League baseball game in Gravesend, New Hampshire. One of the boys hits a foul ball and kills the other boyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s mother. The boy who hits the ball doesnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t believe in accidents; Owen Meany believes he is GodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s instrument. What happens to Owen, after that 1953 foul ball, is extraordinary and terrifying. --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 26 hoursÃ Â andÃ Â 53 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Audible Studios

Audible.com Release Date: August 11, 2009

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B001K56NJG

Best Sellers Rank: #67 inÃ Â Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Classics #290 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Classics #671 inÃ Â Books > Christian Books & Bibles

Customer Reviews

"It was Owen Meany who taught me that any good book is always in motion - from the general to the specific, from the particular to the whole, and back again. Good reading - and good writing about reading - moves the same way.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• So said John Wheelwright about his best friend, the physically undersized but intellectually precocious protagonist and title character. John Irving subscribes to OwenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s philosophy - at least in this book. The narrative moves from the past (the escalation of the Vietnam war) to the present (the escalation of Reagan era foreign policy gaffes); it shifts from the metaphysical (Owen's religious calling) to the reality of his small town New England life (working in a family owned quarry); and from the big picture (the justification for war) to the detailed nuance (the realities of returning the remains of soldiers killed in action to their families).A good fiction author should attempt to tell a good story; a great fiction writer should try to convey a deeper message about the human condition within a good story. John Irving is a great author. In this book, he tells the story of two friends who are superficially different but form a bond from their early years which survives and evolves through their youth and young adulthood,

until Owen, in preordained and somewhat unusual circumstances, is killed during the Vietnam war.On a deeper level, however, the book is about faith, the meaning of life, the hypocrisy of war and more. Throughout the book Irving describes events, large and small, that move the narrative forward but may not have a clear relationship to the larger story until the final chapter. In light of this, I urge any reader not to give up (if so inclined) until s/he gets to the final chapter as this ties together much of the earlier elements of the story. The last chapter appears to veer off on a tangent but, despite the unsavory circumstances, it is consistent with the overall trajectory of the story. It is compelling and causes the reader to ask some profound questions about his own understanding of faith and destiny. In other words - a great work of fiction.

The fact that this novel often shows up on the AP reading list piqued my interest. Once I downloaded this and realized it was a behemoth of a read, I doubted I'd be able to use it in my classroom, but I read on regardless. Despite its length, this novel is fluid and never tiresome. Its beauty is reflected on every page. The main character, Johnny Wheelwright, spends a lot of time talking about his best friend Owen Meany, the book's titular character, but through this narrative we learn a tremendous amount about the Johnny as well. Even alluding to the content of the story gives away too much, and this is a book you must experience for yourself.As an avid reader, many books fade with time. This one will always stay with me.

My first time reading the book was back in 11th grade. My teacher just like to do his own thing, so he had to ask every single one of his students to buy our own copies due to the fact that this book being more Christian fiction, it's not BoE approved for public schools.There were some other books that he had chosen out for 11th graders that I would say is not appropriate for young adults (high school aged teens), but A Prayer for Owen Meany is DEFIANTLY an amazing read and extremely highly recommended to read even during high school years.If kids are allowed to read The Things They Carried, this should defiantly be a book to read as well.

I have read almost everything written by Irving (even the stinkers!), but this one is head and shoulders above the rest. Even "Garp" comes in a distant second to "Owen". I have read this one perhaps six times over the years and keep going back to it, knowing that I will have forgotten some small detail or that I will discover something which just wasn't there for me before--a new connection between events/characters is among the most common of the surprises. It's not for everyone, even Irving fans, bur for those people where it "clicks", it's a wonder to behold. I've purchased and

allowed others to borrow more copies than should be legal but I keep buying them over and over again, knowing that I will offer this one to a friend who probably won't return it, making it a necessity to buy another.

In this book He writes back and forth in a time period of 20. years sometimes he go in great detail on a subject of interest but may not have important part of the story. There are characters I just loved specially John and Owen who are really good friends and many times they have different opinions but respect each other's opinions. Other characters I enjoy to. so if this is the first time you read Irving after a while you'll understand him and will enjoy this book

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