

# The Fourth Hand John Irving

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[The Water-Method Man](#) Random House

When a child hears a noise in the night he gets up to investigate. He calls his father to help him and they work through all the things that the 'noise' could be, eventually realising that it is nothing to be scared of. An empowering book about overcoming ones fears handled with brilliant originality by John Irving and Tatjana Hauptmann.

[The Fourth Hand](#) Penguin

“ Irving looks cunningly beyond the eye-catching gyrations of the mating dance to the morning-after implications. ” —The Washington Post The darker vision and sexual ambiguities of this sensual, ironic tale about a m é nage a quatre in a New England university town foreshadow those of *The World According to Garp*; but this very trim and precise novel is a marked departure from the author's generally robust, boisterous style. Though Mr. Irving's cool eye spares none of his foursome, he writes with genuine compassion for the sexual tests and illusions they perpetrate on each other; but the sexual intrigue between them demonstrates how even the kind can be ungenerous, and even the well-intentioned, destructive. “ One of the most remarkable things about John Irving's first three novels, viewed from the vantage of *The World According to Garp*, is that they can be read as one extended fictional enterprise. . . . The 158-Pound Marriage is as lean and concentrated as a mine shaft. ” —Terrence Des Pres “ Deft, hard-hitting . . . What Irving demonstrates beautifully is that a one-to-one relationship is more demanding than a free-for-all. ” —The New York Times Book Review

[John Irving: The Fourth Hand](#) Vintage Canada “Imagine a young man on his way to a less-than-thirty second event — the loss of his left hand, long before he reached middle age.” The Fourth Hand asks an interesting question: “How can anyone identify a dream of the

future?” The answer: “Destiny is not imaginable, except in dreams or to those in love.” While reporting a story from India, a New York television journalist has his left hand eaten by a lion; millions of TV viewers witness the accident. In Boston, a renowned hand surgeon awaits the opportunity to perform the nation's first hand transplant; meanwhile, in the distracting aftermath of an acrimonious divorce, the surgeon is seduced by his housekeeper. A married woman in Wisconsin wants to give the one-handed reporter her husband's left hand—that is, after her husband dies. But the husband is alive, relatively young, and healthy. This is how John Irving's tenth novel begins; it seems, at first, to be a comedy, perhaps a satire, almost certainly a sexual farce. Yet, in the end, *The Fourth Hand* is as realistic and emotionally moving as any of Mr. Irving's previous novels—including *The World According to Garp*, *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, and *A Widow for One Year*—or his Oscar-winning screenplay of *The Cider House Rules*. *The Fourth Hand* is characteristic of John Irving's seamless storytelling and further explores some of the author's recurring themes—loss, grief, love as redemption. But this novel also breaks new ground; it offers a penetrating look at the power of second chances and the will to change.

[The Imaginary Girlfriend](#) DigiCat Fred 'Bogus' Trumper is a wayward knight-errant in the battle of the sexes and the pursuit of happiness. He also happens to have a complaint more serious than Portnoy's. Yet he stubbornly clings to the notion that he'll make something of his life, and is about to commit himself to a second marriage that bears remarkable resemblance to his first. *The Water-Method Man* is a work of cosummate artistry and comic invention, bizarre imagery and sharp social and psychological observation.

[The Cider House Rules](#) Praeger Pub Text This slyly funny, moving novel about a blue-collar town in upstate New York—and in the life of Sully, of one of its unluckiest citizens, who has been doing the wrong thing triumphantly for fifty years—is a classic American story. Divorced from his own wife and carrying on halfheartedly with another man's, saddled with a bum knee and friends who make enemies redundant, Sully now has one new problem to cope with: a long-estranged son who is in imminent danger of following in his father's footsteps. With its uproarious humor and a heart that embraces

humanity's follies as well as its triumphs, *Nobody's Fool*, from Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Richard Russo, is storytelling at its most generous. *Nobody's Fool* was made into a movie starring Paul Newman, Bruce Willis, Jessica Tandy, and Melody Griffith. [Avenue of Mysteries](#) Harper Collins Fiction excerpts from eighteen acclaimed authors whose works appeared as Ballantine Reader's Circle titles in 1999; with a personal introduction to each author from their editor on what delights them about their authors' fiction.

[The Fourth Hand](#) The Fourth Hand

*The Imaginary Girlfriend* is a candid memoir of the writers and wrestlers who played a role in John Irving's development as a novelist and as a wrestler. It also portrays a father's dedication—Irving coached his two sons to championship titles. It is an illuminating, concise work, a literary treasure.

[A Christmas Carol](#) Random House

*Until I Find You* is the story of the actor Jack Burns – his life, loves, celebrity and astonishing search for the truth about his parents. When he is four years old, Jack travels with his mother Alice, a tattoo artist, to several North Sea ports in search of his father, William Burns. From Copenhagen to Amsterdam, William, a brilliant church organist and profligate womanizer, is always a step ahead – has always just departed in a wave of scandal, with a new tattoo somewhere on his body from a local master or “scratcher.” Alice and Jack abandon their quest, and Jack is educated at schools in Canada and New England – including, tellingly, a girls' school in Toronto. His real education consists of his relationships with older women – from Emma Oastler, who initiates him into erotic life, to the girls of St. Hilda's, with whom he first appears on stage, to the abusive Mrs. Machado, whom he first meets when sent to learn wrestling at a local gym. Too much happens in this expansive, eventful novel to possibly summarize it all. Emma and Jack move to Los Angeles, where Emma becomes a successful novelist and Jack a promising actor. A host of eccentric minor characters memorably come and go, including Jack's hilariously confused teacher the Wurtz; Michelle Maher, the girlfriend he will never forget; and a precocious child Jack finds in the back of an Audi in a restaurant parking lot. We learn about tattoo addiction and movie cross-dressing, “sleeping in the needles” and the cure for cauliflower ears. And John Irving renders his protagonist's unusual rise through Hollywood with the same vivid detail and range of emotions he gives to the organ music Jack hears as a child in European churches. This is an absorbing and moving book about obsession and loss, truth and storytelling, the signs we carry on us and inside us,

the traces we can't get rid of. Jack has always lived in the shadow of his absent father. But as he grows older – and when his mother dies – he starts to doubt the portrait of his father's character she painted for him when he was a child. This is the cue for a second journey around Europe in search of his father, from Edinburgh to Switzerland, towards a conclusion of great emotional force. A melancholy tale of deception, *Until I Find You* is also a swaggering comic novel, a giant tapestry of life's hopes. It is a masterpiece to compare with John Irving's great novels, and restates the author's claim to be considered the most glorious, comic, moving novelist at work today.

**The Critical Response to John Irving** Vintage

A pioneering architectural study of the seventy-mile-square city and the historical process which has made it unique as a human settlement.

**Last Man Standing** Simon and Schuster

"My dear boy, please don't put a label on me – don't make me a category before you get to know me!" John Irving's new novel is a glorious ode to sexual difference, a poignant story of a life that no reader will be able to forget, a book that no one else could have written. Told with the panache and assurance of a master storyteller, *In One Person* takes the reader along a dizzying path: from a private school in Vermont in the 1950s to the gay bars of Madrid's Chueca district, from the Vienna State Opera to the wrestling mat at the New York Athletic Club. It takes in the ways that cross-dressing passes from one generation to the next in a family, the trouble with amateur performances of Ibsen, and what happens if you fall in love at first sight while reading *Madame Bovary* on a troop transport ship, in the middle of an Atlantic storm. For the sheer pleasure of the tale, there is no writer alive as entertaining and enthralling as John Irving at his best. But this is also a heartfelt, intimate book about one person, a novelist named William Francis Dean. By his side as he tells his own story, we follow Billy on a fifty-year journey toward himself, meeting some uniquely unconventional characters along the way. For all his long and short relationships with both men and women, Billy remains somehow alone, never quite able to fit into society's neat categories. And as Billy searches for the truth about himself, *In One Person* grows into an unforgettable call for compassion in a world marked by failures of love and failures of understanding. Utterly contemporary and topical in its themes, *In One Person* is one of John Irving's most political novels. It is a book that grapples with the mysteries of identity and the multiple tragedies of the AIDS epidemic, a book about everything that has changed in our sexual life over the last fifty years and everything that still needs to. It's also one of Irving's most sincere and human novels, a book imbued on every page with a spirit of openness that expands and challenges the reader's world. A brand new story in a grand old tradition, *In One Person* stands out as one of John Irving's finest works – and as such, one of the best and most

important American books of the last four decades.

**National Geographic Books**

"Imagine a young man on his way to a less-than-thirty second event — the loss of his left hand, long before he reached middle age." The *Fourth Hand* asks an interesting question: "How can anyone identify a dream of the future?" The answer: "Destiny is not imaginable, except in dreams or to those in love." While reporting a story from India, a New York television journalist has his left hand eaten by a lion; millions of TV viewers witness the accident. In Boston, a renowned hand surgeon awaits the opportunity to perform the nation's first hand transplant; meanwhile, in the distracting aftermath of an acrimonious divorce, the surgeon is seduced by his housekeeper. A married woman in Wisconsin wants to give the one-handed reporter her husband's left hand—that is, after her husband dies. But the husband is alive, relatively young, and healthy. This is how John Irving's tenth novel begins; it seems, at first, to be a comedy, perhaps a satire, almost certainly a sexual farce. Yet, in the end, *The Fourth Hand* is as realistic and emotionally moving as any of Mr. Irving's previous novels—including *The World According to Garp*, *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, and *A Widow for One Year*—or his Oscar-winning screenplay of *The Cider House Rules*. *The Fourth Hand* is characteristic of John Irving's seamless storytelling and further explores some of the author's recurring themes—loss, grief, love as redemption. But this novel also breaks new ground; it offers a penetrating look at the power of second chances and the will to change.

**Trying to Save Piggy Sneed** Random House

#1 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK While reporting a story from India, New York journalist Patrick Wallingford inadvertently becomes his own headline when his left hand is eaten by a lion. In Boston, a renowned surgeon eagerly awaits the opportunity to perform the nation's first hand transplant. But what if the donor's widow demands visitation rights with the hand? In answering this unexpected question, John Irving has written a novel that is by turns brilliantly comic and emotionally moving, offering a penetrating look at the power of second chances and the will to change. Praise for *The Fourth Hand* "A rich and deeply moving tale . . . Vintage Irving: a story of two very disparate people, and the strange and unexpected ways we grow . . . Irving's novels are perceptive and precise reflections of the world around us."—*The Washington Post Book World* "A blend of sexual farce, journalistic satire, and tender love story . . . From what at first seems bizarre, Irving builds the best kind of love story: an improbable one. Wallingford gets more than a transplanted hand; he begins to find his soul."—*USA Today* "A riveting entertainment and certainly one of the funniest novels of the year. The

authoritative control of Irving's storytelling has never been more impressive. . . . The delighted reader is powerless to look away."—*Chicago Sun-Times* "[A] thoroughly satisfying literary experience . . . Irving's most compassionate and redemptive [novel] to date . . . [His] mastery of characterization is unequaled in American novelists of the day."—*St. Louis Post-Dispatch* "A beautiful story about the redemptive power of love."—*The Denver Post*

**A Son of the Circus** Bloomsbury Publishing  
Stunning illustrations by award-winning artist Lee Krutop accompany this timeless Christmas story. Each spread features a beautiful pop-up. This book is a special keepsake to be enjoyed and shared with loved ones for many years to come.

**The Fourth Hand** University-Press.org

Please note that the content of this book primarily consists of articles available from Wikipedia or other free sources online. Commentary (novels not included). Pages: 21. Chapters: *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, *A Son of the Circus*, *A Widow for One Year*, *In One Person*, *Last Night in Twisted River*, *Setting Free the Bears*, *The 158-Pound Marriage*, *The Cider House Rules*, *The Fourth Hand*, *The Hotel New Hampshire*, *The Water-Method Man*, *The World According to Garp*, *Until I Find You*. Excerpt: *Last Night in Twisted River* is a 2009 novel by American writer John Irving, his twelfth since 1968. It was first published in Canada by Knopf Canada on October 20, 2009, and in the United States by Random House on October 27, 2009. The novel spans five decades and is about a boy and his father who flee the logging community of Twisted River on the Androscoggin River in northern New Hampshire after a tragic accident. While on the run, the boy grows up to become a famous writer, writing eight semi-autobiographical novels. The book was included in *Time's* 2009 list of "the fall's most anticipated movies, books, TV shows, albums and exhibits." *Last Night in Twisted River* took 20 years to conceive and write, and is a story within a story that shows the development of a novelist and the writing process. It uses many of the themes and plot devices that have already seen treatment in other works by the author. The career of the novelist in the book closely tracks the career of Irving himself, making it Irving's most overtly autobiographical novel. The book received mixed reviews in the press. *The Independent* called it Irving's most powerful work to date, while *The Dallas*

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Morning News admired Irving's modern version of the traditional flight and revenge theme. The New York Times was not as impressed and felt that with better editing it could have equalled some of Irving's more powerful works. The St. Petersburg Times described the novel as a "loose and baggy tale in search of a center." The...

**The Encyclopaedia Britannica** Ballantine Books  
'Imagine a young man on his way to a less-than-thirty-second event - the loss of his left hand, long before he reached middle age.' While reporting a story from India, a New York television journalist has his left hand eaten by a lion; millions of TV viewers witness the accident. In Boston, a renowned hand surgeon awaits the opportunity to perform the nation's first hand transplant. A married woman in Wisconsin wants to give the one-handed reporter her husband's left hand, that is, after her husband dies. But the husband is alive, relatively young, and healthy...

Until I Find You Random House

The Fourth Hand National Geographic Books

Continental Drift Penguin

Now available in eBook for the first time in America—the New York Times bestselling saga of a most unusual family from the award-winning author of *The World According to Garp*. “The first of my father’s illusions was that bears could survive the life lived by human beings, and the second was that human beings could survive a life led in hotels.” So says John Berry, son of a hapless dreamer, brother to a cadre of eccentric siblings, and chronicler of the lives lived, the loves experienced, the deaths met, and the myriad strange and wonderful times encountered by the family Berry. Hoteliers, pet-bear owners, friends of Freud (the animal trainer and vaudevillian, that is), and playthings of mad fate, they “dream on” in a funny, sad, outrageous, and moving novel by the remarkable author of *A Prayer for Owen Meany* and *Last Night in Twisted River*.

*My Movie Business* Harper Collins

In 1954, in the cookhouse of a logging and sawmill settlement in northern New Hampshire, an anxious twelve-year-old boy mistakes the local constable’s girlfriend for a bear. Both the twelve-year-old and his father become fugitives, forced to run from Coos County—to Boston, to southern Vermont, to Toronto—pursued by the implacable constable. Their lone protector is a fiercely libertarian logger, once a river driver, who befriends them. In a story spanning five decades, *Last Night in Twisted River* depicts the recent half-century in the United States as “a living replica of Coos County, where lethal hatreds were generally permitted to run their course.” What further distinguishes *Last Night in Twisted River* is the author’s unmistakable voice—the inimitable voice of an accomplished storyteller.

*In One Person* National Geographic Books

This is a suspenseful novel in which Mark Wylder disappears just as he is about to marry Dorcas Brandon. He leaves no trace but finally, letters

from him arrive with a European postmark.

Meanwhile, a sinister figure appears and claims he is the rightful groom for Dorcas.

*A Prayer for Owen Meany* Vintage Canada  
Surveys the nature of John Irving's remarkable popular and critical success as a novelist from the late 1960s through the present.