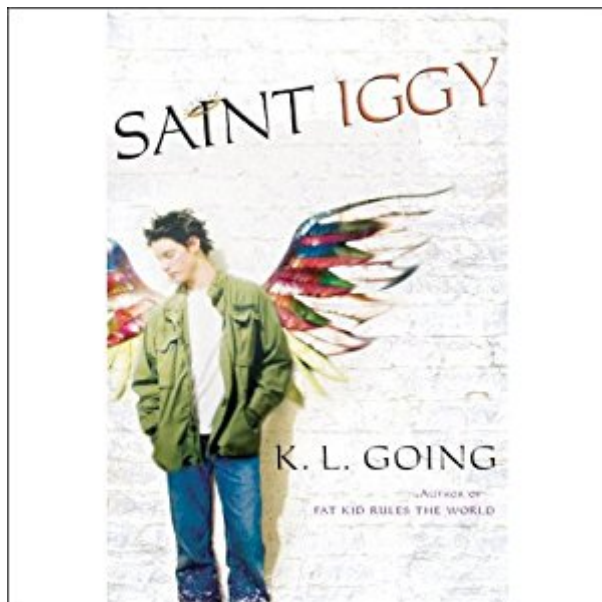


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# Saint Iggy



## Synopsis

When Iggy Corso gets kicked out of high school, there's no one for him to tell. His mother has gone off, his father is stoned on the couch, and the phone's been disconnected, so even the social worker can't get through. Leaving his public housing behind, Iggy ventures into the world to make something of his life. It's not easy when you're sixteen, have no skills, and your only friend is mixed up with the dealer who got your mom hooked. But Iggy is . . . Iggy, and he has the kind of wisdom that lets him see what no one else can. "Includes an author's note." --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It is a very sad but selfless story, I liked it a lot, however, it was hard to imagine other kids in the same situations and then it became too real! I love K.L Going but she might have went a bit dark and deep in this one!

SAINT IGGY is the bittersweet story of New York teenager Iggy Corso, a challenged young man who lives in public housing with a father who is typically to be found crashed out on the rotting couch, stoned and/or drunk. Their smelly and decrepit apartment is packed with broken furniture that his father has picked up off the street on garbage days. Meanwhile, Iggy's addict mother went out "visiting" a month ago and hasn't been seen since. Freddie, who is Iggy's dad's dealer, grew up with Iggy's dad in that same public housing building."I think about the facts, and I've failed two

grades, been suspended eight times, got caught stealing someone's sneakers, had to go to the Principal's office almost every other day starting in kindergarten when I bit a kid for touching me, and I've been in every kind of program ever invented, like Big Siblings, Tutoring, Homework Help, Map for the Future, and Head Start, and none of it has made any difference, partly because I am lazy and partly because I get distracted in the middle of things instead of finishing."Iggy is now a sixteen year old high school freshman, and a few days before Christmas vacation he's about to permanently get the boot. A teacher felt threatened when Iggy followed a hot new female student into the teacher's classroom and Iggy insisted he also belonged in the class. After the security guy came and mashed Iggy's face into the concrete, the principal suspended Iggy and scheduled an expulsion hearing. But before Iggy left that day, the principal told him:" 'You've had a lot to overcome in your life, but that's no excuse for poor discipline. We can all make something of ourselves, no matter what our situation. We can do something that contributes to the world, live a life that has meaning."Iggy understands that he needs to complete school or he is really going to be without choices. Grasping the principal's words like an inflatable cushion in the aftermath of a plane crash, this teen with so little in skills to work with and so little support becomes determined to try and make a contribution in the next few days, before the hearing, so that he won't be expelled.This is the extraordinary story of Iggy's quest.

Not only did I get this book for a very low price, it arrived promptly and was in good ex-library condition. It is an unforgettable story, difficult to put down, a smooth read. Funny, sad, desperate Iggy with hope like only a young person could have it...I cried over this story for weeks and still do if I think too much about it. Iggy was so real and he has affected the way I look at my own life and those around me, especially young people.

A foster child whom I mentor recommended this book to me. I have to admit I was hesitant. She picked it up at a temporary emergency shelter for children. But it's great; it really is. And I can't stop thinking about it.

Good for kids who are going through harder times.

Great books!

Randy "Igmund" Corso is a third-year freshman with a colorful track record at school. When you

have a record like he does, teachers can lie about you, and no one believes you, especially not the court system that's supposed to decide if you're expelled from school or not. With the way everyone treats him, you'd think he's a bad kid, but he's not. He attends class, sometimes. He doesn't use drugs, even though he was born addicted. He does his best to stay away from his father's drug dealer Freddie, who is always knocking on their door looking for money. With his dad most likely passed out drunk or high at home and his mom "visiting someone" somewhere, Iggy doesn't have anyone to tell when he gets indefinitely suspended from high school for an offense he didn't commit. Even the social worker can't get through because the phone has been disconnected. With a few days until the hearing, Iggy turns to his friend Montell, a law school dropout from the rich side of town who is investing his time in pot and philosophy. Iggy needs a plan to straighten out his life, but that's more difficult done than said for a 16-year-old with no skills or money who has just been kicked out of school. His makeshift plan is to: 1) make a plan 2) get out of the projects 3) do something with my life 4) change everyone's mind about me 5) get back into school. During the week before Christmas, Iggy drags himself around the city looking for answers and enlightenment. He keeps thinking about his principal, who told him to "do something that contributes to the world." That seems like such an easy thing to do until he tries it. How exactly can one kid do something to contribute? What if he's never had any examples to follow? What if the only differences he can make are too small for anyone to notice? And does it even matter if people notice? Author of the Printz Honor Book *FAT KID RULES THE WORLD*, K. L. Going has put together another enjoyable read. The contrast of Iggy's dark urban world against Mo's posh lifestyle provides the story with an ideal backdrop for a grim hero like this to emerge. An entertaining novel with more depth than you'd imagine at first glance, *SAINT IGGY* takes the life of a fringe-living outcast from the projects and makes him someone unforgettable. --- Reviewed by Jonathan Stephens

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