

Michigan's Write Stuff

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Reviewer: Leslie Charles, author and book editor

If I asked you, "Is there anyone in your life that drives you up the wall?" I suspect you'd respond with a resounding "Yes!" (Me too.) It might be someone you live with, work with, or must interact with from time to time, but surely there's at least one irksome person in your life that pushes your buttons.

Mary Jane Mapes, Michigan native and Portage resident, has written a book just for us, one that can liberate us from mud slogging, getting pig headed, or grunting under our breath about how insensitive or infuriating some people can be.

In her fetchingly titled ***You CAN Teach a PIG to Sing***, Mapes offers an insightful, delightful read. Subtitled, *Create Great Relationships...With Anyone, Anywhere, Anytime*, her book makes a big promise, and it delivers!

According to the author, PIG can mean "**P**ainfully Irritating **G**uy or **G**al", or "**P**ain In **G**eneral," and more. In other words, you can identify your own PIG (or PIGs) from a variety of choices listed in the book or make up your own description.

With a compelling story about the big PIG in her life and how she transformed a frustrating, contentious relationship into a friendly, compatible one, Mapes shares all the steps she took to make this happen.

By threading a series of insights, common sense strategies, and empowering personal exercises into her story, this communication expert will help you get "out of the pen and into the open." If you follow her advice, the PIG in your life can be converted into a **P**leasantly Improved **G**o-Getter (and so can you).

The clever language in this book, the wit and savvy wisdom, the conversational style and enlightening ideas will give you the kind of gentle control that allows you to shift your perspective and switch

your relationships from annoying and adversarial to accommodating and aligned.

The most insightful part for me in reading *You CAN Teach a PIG to Sing* was learning that not only are there PIGs in my life, but sometimes I'm someone else's PIG! While that stung a little bit, it also "brought home the bacon" wherein not only could I ward off other people's piggish behaviors, I could clean up my own!

If you want to read an illuminating and entertaining book that's guaranteed to keep your relationships (and your mood) in the pink, this is it. Try these doable, easy-to-apply strategies and you'll be singing a different tune. The best part is—so will your PIG!