



# Of Paradise and Pigs

John Rigbey

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Set in the village of Saint Laurent-des-Anges (or Saint Laurent-des-Anglais), in rural South-West France, "Of Paradise and Pigs" is a story of British ex-pats and their Gallic hosts. When Solange Guilbeault's trufflehunting pig, Mauricette, ventures into snobbish Nigel and Lucy Barclay-Jones' manicured garden and wreaks untold havoc and damage, they decide on legal action. Within days, and in an act of retaliation, the use of the ex-pat's cricket field is withdrawn by its French owner, who is also Solange's uncle. He then commences counter-litigation against the Barclay-Jones on the grounds that Mauricette was harmed by Lucy, who hit it on the snout with a spade, and that resulting from this, the pig has lost her ability to scent the valuable truffles, thereby denying Solange her living. As can be imagined, that Nigel Barclay-Jones develops a passionate attraction for the hard-drinking, manly and dissolute, but thoroughly irrepressible Solange does not help matters. To this already sensitive situation, factor in the secretary of the cricket club, the priggish Norman Titley, his mistress Elvira Wormley-Gough and their bizarre periods of afternoon recreation and the results are predictably, well, very much along the lines of a French Farce. Amongst other beautifully drawn characters are the dishonest village mayor and his alcoholic mother and, of course, Mauricette - an unpleasant, evil-minded and largely incontinent cochon truffier. Combine all of this with a great deal of misbehaviour on both sides, ex-pat and French, and the result is a most enjoyable and hilarious novel from this popular author. "Of Paradise and Pigs" will make you laugh and it will make you cry... but above all it will entertain.



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