



If You Knew Then What I Know Now

By Ryan Van Meter

Sarabande Books. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 176 pages. Dimensions: 7.6in. x 5.2in. x 0.8in. New York Magazines The Year in Books pick The Millions A Year in Reading pick Salon.coms Writers Choose Their Favorite Books The middle American coming-of-age has found new life in Ryan Van Meters coming-out, made as strange as it is familiar by acknowledging the role played by gender and sexuality. In fourteen linked essays, *If You Knew Then What I Know Now* reinvents the memoir with all-encompassing empathy for bully and bullied alike. A father pitches baseballs at his hapless son and a grandmother watches with silent forbearance as the same slim, quiet boy sets the table dressed in a blue satin dress. Another essay explores origins of the word faggot and its etymological connection to flaming queen. This deft collection maps the unremarkable landscapes of childhood with compassion and precision, allowing awkwardness its own beauty. This is an argument for the intimate not the sensational and an embrace of all the skinned knees in our stumble toward adulthood. Ryan Van Meter grew up in Missouri and studied English at the University of Missouri-Columbia. After graduating, he lived in Chicago for ten years and worked in advertising. He holds...



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