



If You Knew Then What I Know Now

By Ryan Van Meter

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

If You Knew Then What I Know Now By Ryan Van Meter

New York Magazine's The Year in Books pick

The Millions' A Year in Reading pick

Salon.com's Writers Choose Their Favorite Books

The middle American coming-of-age has found new life in Ryan Van Meter's 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 essay as 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 an MA in creative writing from DePaul University and an MFA in nonfiction writing from the University of Iowa. His essays have appeared in *The Gettysburg Review*, *Indiana Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *Arts & Letters*, and *Fourth Genre*, among others, and selected for anthologies including *Best American Essays 2009*. In the summer of 2009, he was awarded a residency at the MacDowell Colony. He currently lives in California where he is an assistant professor of creative nonfiction at the University of San Francisco.

 [Download If You Knew Then What I Know Now ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online If You Knew Then What I Know Now ...pdf](#)

If You Knew Then What I Know Now

By Ryan Van Meter

If You Knew Then What I Know Now By Ryan Van Meter

New York Magazine's The Year in Books pick

The Millions' A Year in Reading pick

Salon.com's Writers Choose Their Favorite Books

The middle American coming-of-age has found new life in Ryan Van Meter's 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 essay as 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 an MA in creative writing from DePaul University and an MFA in nonfiction writing from the University of Iowa. His essays have appeared in *The Gettysburg Review*, *Indiana Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *Arts & Letters*, and *Fourth Genre*, among others, and selected for anthologies including *Best American Essays 2009*. In the summer of 2009, he was awarded a residency at the MacDowell Colony. He currently lives in California where he is an assistant professor of creative nonfiction at the University of San Francisco.

If You Knew Then What I Know Now By Ryan Van Meter Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1028546 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Sarabande Books
- Published on: 2011-04-05
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.77" h x .67" w x 5.35" l, .55 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 176 pages



[Download If You Knew Then What I Know Now ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online If You Knew Then What I Know Now ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online If You Knew Then What I Know Now By Ryan Van Meter

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. In this moving debut, a collection of 14 linked essays, Van Meter charts the repercussions of growing up in Missouri with a secret. He delicately charts episodes from his youth, such as baseball practice with his increasingly frustrated father, who couldn't hide his disappointment in his son's disinterest in sports, despite the promise of a new TV. "Every time, I'm the small kid who slouches at the quiet corners of the action, stands still and tries not to be noticed." A season of practice culminating in a painful injury allows a new perspective to emerge: "This summer, we've been trying to be certain kinds of men we probably weren't ever meant to be." Van Meter recalls, with sensitivity, finally coming out of the closet and the strain it put on his relationship with his best college friend. "Before finally speaking those words, I had known I was gay but wasn't ready to admit it...before that, for almost all of my teenage years, I thought I might be gay and was afraid so I prayed every night for it to be taken away. And before that, I didn't know I was gay, but I knew I was different, and I didn't want to be that either." Thanks to Van Meter's honesty, essays on his own childhood, identity, and love have a profoundly universal appeal. (Apr. 1)

Review

In this moving debut, a collection of 14 linked essays, Van Meter charts the repercussions of growing up in Missouri with a secret. He delicately charts episodes from his youth, such as baseball practice with his increasingly frustrated father, who couldn't hide his disappointment in his son's disinterest in sports, despite the promise of a new TV. "Every time, I'm the small kid who slouches at the quiet corners of the action, stands still and tries not to be noticed." A season of practice culminating in a painful injury allows a new perspective to emerge: "This summer, we've been trying to be certain kinds of men we probably weren't ever meant to be." Van Meter recalls, with sensitivity, finally coming out of the closet and the strain it put on his relationship with his best college friend. "Before finally speaking those words, I had known I was gay but wasn't ready to admit it...before that, for almost all of my teenage years, I thought I might be gay and was afraid so I prayed every night for it to be taken away. And before that, I didn't know I was gay, but I knew I was different, and I didn't want to be that either." Thanks to Van Meter's honesty, essays on his own childhood, identity, and love have a profoundly universal appeal.

—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

Reading Ryan Van Meter's collection of 14 ruminative essays, *If You Knew Then What I Know Now*, feels like sitting in the priest's side of a confessional. As Van Meter drifts elliptically between his childhood as a closeted young boy and his life now as an openly gay man, he draws the reader inexorably to this book, and its compelling weight.

—Vikas Turakhia, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*

"Van Meter has come a long way from the 5-year-old who held his bestie's hand and said, 'I love you.' But in these moving pages, what he tells us about the years in between is every bit as shining and true."

—Gina Webb, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

Van Meter has come a long way from the 5-year-old who held his bestie's hand and said, "I love you." But in these moving pages, what he tells us about the years in between is every bit as shining and true.

This exploration is crafted with beautiful language and innovative attention to form, surprising the reader as often with humor as with heartbreak. In the end, *If You Knew Then What I Know Now* makes the coming out

story and the coming of age story new again.

—Bookslut

Ryan Van Meter's is both a charming and wounding intelligence. To read a book this observant, this fiercely honest, and this effortlessly beautiful is to feel the very pulse of contemporary American essays.

—John D'Agata

If You Knew Then What I Know Now reconstructs the pain and astonishment of coming to know oneself deeply. These essays are insistently honest, darkened by melancholy and yearning, yet polished by prose so lithe, so elegant that Van Meter's human presence brightens every line. It is truly rare for an essayist to marry dramatically compelling storytelling to rigorous investigations of language; Van Meter investigates both intimate and public forms of language with a highly refined sense of craft and a curious, open heart.

—Lia Purpura

In a culture hungry for consolation and easy answers, it's a relief to come across a memoir that's only hungry for the truth. "So how do we learn to be in love?" asks the speaker of Ryan Van Meter's *If You Knew Then What I Know Now*. We don't know, says the soul of his book, which is why I'll keep coming back to these pure, generous pages again and again.

—Paul Lisicky

About the Author

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 an MA in creative writing from DePaul University and an MFA in nonfiction writing from The University of Iowa. His essays have appeared in *The Gettysburg Review*, *Indiana Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *Arts & Letters*, and *Fourth Genre*, among others, and selected for anthologies including *Best American Essays 2009*. In the summer of 2009, he was awarded a residency at the MacDowell Colony. He currently lives in California where he is an assistant professor of creative nonfiction at The University of San Francisco.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Roger Dupre:

What do you with regards to book? It is not important together with you? Or just adding material when you require something to explain what your own problem? How about your free time? Or are you busy person? If you don't have spare time to do others business, it is make you feel bored faster. And you have spare time? What did you do? Everybody has many questions above. They need to answer that question because just their can do that. It said that about e-book. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is right. Because start from on pre-school until university need this *If You Knew Then What I Know Now* to read.

Natasha Rich:

This *If You Knew Then What I Know Now* is great publication for you because the content and that is full of information for you who have always deal with world and possess to make decision every minute. That book reveal it data accurately using great manage word or we can say no rambling sentences included. So if you are read this hurriedly you can have whole info in it. Doesn't mean it only offers you straight forward

sentences but challenging core information with wonderful delivering sentences. Having If You Knew Then What I Know Now in your hand like finding the world in your arm, details in it is not ridiculous 1. We can say that no guide that offer you world with ten or fifteen moment right but this publication already do that. So , this is good reading book. Hey there Mr. and Mrs. hectic do you still doubt which?

Alejandro Koenig:

Many people spending their time frame by playing outside together with friends, fun activity having family or just watching TV all day every day. You can have new activity to shell out your whole day by examining a book. Ugh, ya think reading a book can really hard because you have to take the book everywhere? It okay you can have the e-book, delivering everywhere you want in your Cell phone. Like If You Knew Then What I Know Now which is getting the e-book version. So , try out this book? Let's notice.

Mohammed Strohl:

Book is one of source of information. We can add our information from it. Not only for students but in addition native or citizen need book to know the upgrade information of year in order to year. As we know those guides have many advantages. Beside many of us add our knowledge, can bring us to around the world. By book If You Knew Then What I Know Now we can get more advantage. Don't you to definitely be creative people? To get creative person must prefer to read a book. Only choose the best book that appropriate with your aim. Don't be doubt to change your life at this book If You Knew Then What I Know Now. You can more desirable than now.

**Download and Read Online If You Knew Then What I Know Now
By Ryan Van Meter #0AZD5OLPMR4**

Read If You Knew Then What I Know Now By Ryan Van Meter for online ebook

If You Knew Then What I Know Now By Ryan Van Meter Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read If You Knew Then What I Know Now By Ryan Van Meter books to read online.

Online If You Knew Then What I Know Now By Ryan Van Meter ebook PDF download

If You Knew Then What I Know Now By Ryan Van Meter Doc

If You Knew Then What I Know Now By Ryan Van Meter Mobipocket

If You Knew Then What I Know Now By Ryan Van Meter EPub