



## A Common Pornography: A Memoir

By Kevin Sampsell

Harper Perennial. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 218 pages. Dimensions: 7.8in. x 5.3in. x 0.8in. In 2003 Kevin Sampsell authored a chapbook memoir of the same title. It was written as a kind of memory experiment, in which he recollected luminous details from his childhood in independently amusing chapters. It functioned as an experiential catalogue of American youth in the 70s and 80s. In 2008 Kevin's estranged father died of an aneurysm. When he returned home to Kennewick, Washington for the funeral, Kevin's mother revealed to him disturbing threads in their family history -- stories of incest, madness, betrayal, and death -- which retroactively colored Kevin's memories of his upbringing and youth. He learned of his mother's first two husbands, the fathers of his three older, mythologized half-siblings, and the havoc they wreaked on his mother. He learned of his own father's seething resentment of his step-children, which was expressed in physical, psychological, and sexual abuse. And he learned more about his oldest step-sister, Elinda, who, as a young girl, was labeled feeble-minded by a teacher. When she became a teenager, she was sent to a psychiatric hospital. She entered the clinic at 98 pounds. She left two years later 200...



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