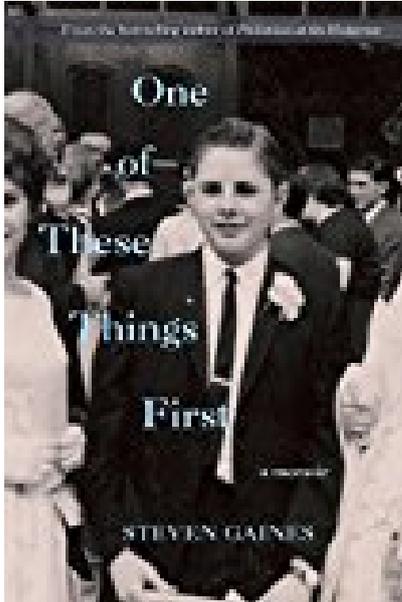


One of These Things First



BOOK DETAILS

- Author : Steven Gaines
- Pages : 272 Pages
- Publisher : Delphinium
- Language : English
- ISBN : 1883285690

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BOOK SYNOPSIS

From New York Times–bestselling author Steven Gaines comes a wry and touching memoir of his trials as a gay teen at the famed Payne Whitney Psychiatric Clinic. *One of These Things First* is a poignant reminiscence of a fifteen-year-old gay Jewish boy's unexpected trajectory from a life behind a rack of dresses in his grandmother's Brooklyn bra-and-girdle store to Manhattan's infamous Payne Whitney Psychiatric Clinic, whose alumni includes writers, poets, and madmen, as well as Marilyn Monroe and bestselling author Steven Gaines. With a gimlet eye and a true gift for storytelling, Gaines captures his childhood shtetl in Brooklyn, and all its drama and secrets, like an Edward Hopper tableau: his philandering grandfather with his fleet of Cadillacs and Corvettes; a giant, empty movie theater, his portal to the outside world; a shirtless teenage boy pushing a lawnmower; and a pair of tormenting bullies whose taunts drive Gaines to a suicide attempt. Gaines also takes the reader behind the walls of Payne Whitney—the “Harvard of psychiatric clinics,” as *Time* magazine called it—populated by a captivating group of neurasthenics who affect his life in unexpected ways. The cast of characters includes a famous Broadway producer who becomes his unlikely mentor; an elegant woman who claims to be the ex-mistress of newly elected president John F. Kennedy; a snooty, suicidal architect; and a seductive young contessa. At the center of the story is a brilliant young psychiatrist who promises to cure a young boy of his homosexuality and give him the normalcy he so longs for. For readers who love stories of self-transformation, *One of These Things First* is a fascinating memoir in the vein of Susanna Kaysen's *Girl, Interrupted* and Augusten Burroughs's *Running with Scissors*. With its novelistic texture and unflagging narrative, this book is destined to become one of the great, indelible works of the memoir genre.

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