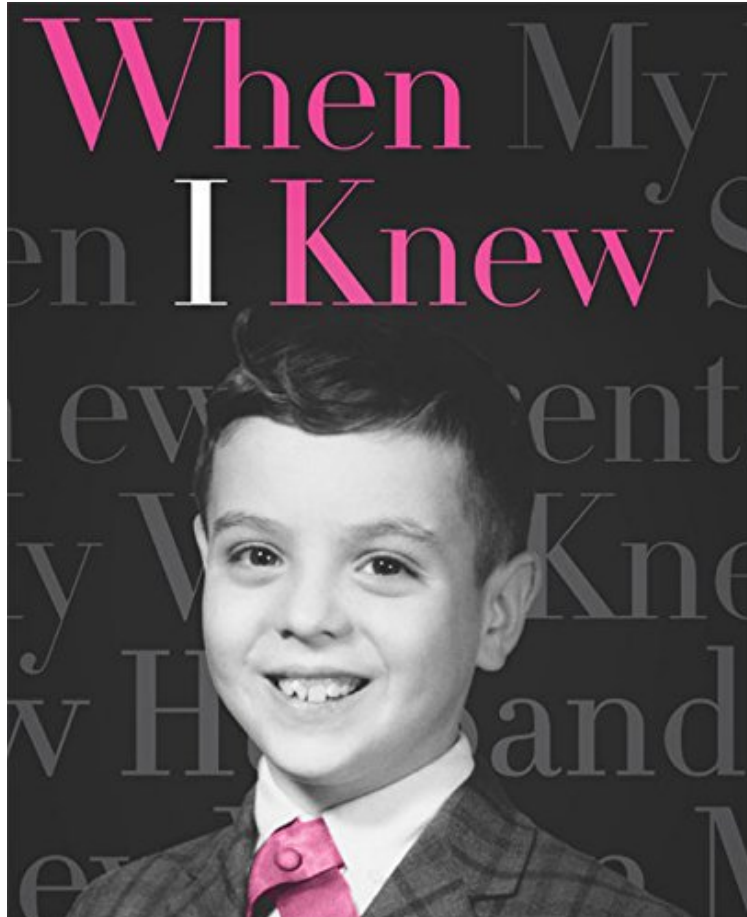


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## When I Knew

*Robert Trachtenberg*

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**Robert Trachtenberg : When I Knew** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised When I Knew:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book! Perhaps not instructive for straight folks to ...By Tom FreemanGreat book! Perhaps not instructive for straight folks to understand the gay experience, but very good for gay folks to communicate their experience to one another.10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. A little material stretched to fill a bookBy The Mighty Hudson"When I Knew" is as much about graphic design as it is about the literary content, so the oversized dimensions make sense. The anecdotes shared herein are brief and easy to read, printed in large type against colorful backgrounds and often accompanied by childhood photos of those interviewed, many who are minor celebrities.These brief glimpses into the early lives of gay men and women are mostly humorous ones, interspersed with the occasional poignant or sad sketch.Unfortunately the entire book can be consumed in one short sitting. It's breezy and entertaining, but I wish there had been a little more depth -- and a lot more material. Even for a "fun" read, the overall effect is thin. Still, pick it up and it's hard to put down.0 of 0 people found the following

review helpful. This a good book to give to family members of people who ...By Sylvia De RooyThis a good book to give to family members of people who are gay when family has a hard time understanding that people are born gay and know at a young age that they're gay.

When I Knew is a collection of smart, hilarious, and often poignant stories about that revelation for all gay men and women: when they first knew. In this gorgeously illustrated, cleverly designed, and colorful book, acclaimed fashion and celeb-rity photographer Robert Trachtenberg brings humor and style to the EUREKA! moments of more than eighty contributors, including B. D. Wong, Arthur Laurents, Simon Doonan, Stephen Fry, Marc Shaiman, Michael Musto, and more. Also mixed in are tales about when parents knew and when everyone else knew, as well as laugh-out-loud coming-out stories. Readers will fall in love with these anecdotes, from the seven-year-old who looked under the television set to sneak a peek under Tarzan's loincloth, to the inquisitive grandmother who asked her grandson, "You don't like a girl to get married? You prefer a boy?", to the courageous field trip participant who passed up the universal favorite burger-and-fry combo in favor of the fruit plate with cottage cheese. Filled with original art by New Yorker illustrator Tom Bachtell, historical images, and personal photographs from the contributors, When I Knew is a vibrant and witty celebration of that sometimes glorious, sometimes painful, but always captivating moment when everything suddenly makes sense.

From Publishers WeeklyWhen I was six," writes Tammy Lynn Michaels, "I loved my first grade teacher so much I knew I would have to grow up to be a boy so I could come back and ask her to marry me." Documentarian Trachtenberg (American Masters: On Cukor) brings together the comical, sometimes bitter and always poignant moments when gay men and women first realize (or admit) the truth about their own sexual preference. Trachtenberg has gathered some famous names for his collection (Gavin Lambert, Arthur Laurents, B.D. Wong, Simon Doonan), but perhaps the freshest stories come from voices unknown. What surprises is how often these moments stem from confrontations with an ostensibly heterosexual mass culture: TV, Broadway, the movies, organized sportall of which are represented in the lavish set of collaged color illustrations that fill most every page, along with comics and candid photos of the contributors. Eugenio Zanetti recalls watching Miyoshi Umeki being kissed by Brando in Sayonara, in a theater in Buenos Aires in the 1950s, and leaning back in his seat "at the exact same angle as Miyoshi." For Eugenia Kurt, it was a mesmerizing encounter with Rosalind Russell in the nun comedy The Trouble with Angels. This book is composed of equal parts insight, shame and soul. (June) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From School Library JournalAdult/High SchoolA collection of anecdotes by 80 gay men and women about that moment when they first knew at some level the truth of their sexual orientation. Each story is accompanied by a photograph or cartoon that helps make the book visually appealing. Some of the selections are comical; others are poignant, like the one about the grandmother who made her grandson cry when she denounced parents who couldn't accept the truth. These people tell their stories with humor, courage, and defiance. There is plenty of food for thought and discussion within these pages. Peggy Bercher, Fairfax County Public Library, VA Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. 3rd Place, Special Trade-General Category, New York Book Show (No Source)