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What Happens Next?: Matters Of Life And Death.

By Bauer, Douglas.

University of Iowa Press, Iowa City, 2013. Softcover. Book Condition: New. Iowa and the Midwest Experience Series.. 160 pages. Softcover. New book. ESSAYS. What is life about but the continuous posing of the questions: what happens next, and what do we make of it when it arrives? In these highly evocative personal essays, Douglas Bauer weaves together the stories of his own and his parents' lives, the meals they ate, the work and rewards and regrets that defined them, and the inevitable betrayal by their bodies as they aged. His collection features at its center a long and memory-rich piece seasoned with sensory descriptions of the midday dinners his mother cooked for her farmer husband and father-in-law every noon for many years. It's this memoir in miniature that sets the table for the other stories that surround it—of love and bitterness, of hungers served and denied. Good food and marvelous meals would take on other revelatory meanings for Bauer as a young man, when he met, became lifelong friends with, and was tutored in the pleasures of an appetite for life by M. F. K. Fisher, the century's finest writer in English on "the art of eating," to borrow one...


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