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Things Come on: An Amneoir

By Joseph Harrington

University Press of New England, United States, 2014.

Paperback. Book Condition: New. 226 x 152 mm. Language:

English . Brand New Book. Things Come On is a broken and

sutured hybrid of forms, combining poetry, prose narration,

primary documents, dramatic dialogue, and pictures. The

narrative is woven around the almost exact concurrence of the

Watergate scandal and the dates of the poet's mother's illness

and death from breast cancer, and weaves together private

and public tragedies-showing how the language of illness and

of political cover-up powerfully resonate with one another. The

resulting amneoir (a blend of memoir and amnesia) explores

a time for which the author must rely largely on testimony and

documentary evidence-not unlike the Congress and the nation

did during the same period. Absences, amnesia, and silences

count for at least as much as words. As the double tragedy

unfolds, it refuses to become part of an overarching system,

metaphor, or metanarrative, but rather raises questions of

memory and evidence, gender and genre, personal and

political, and expert vs. lay language. This haunting

experimental biography challenges our assumptions about the

distance between individual experience and history. A reader's

companion is available at.



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