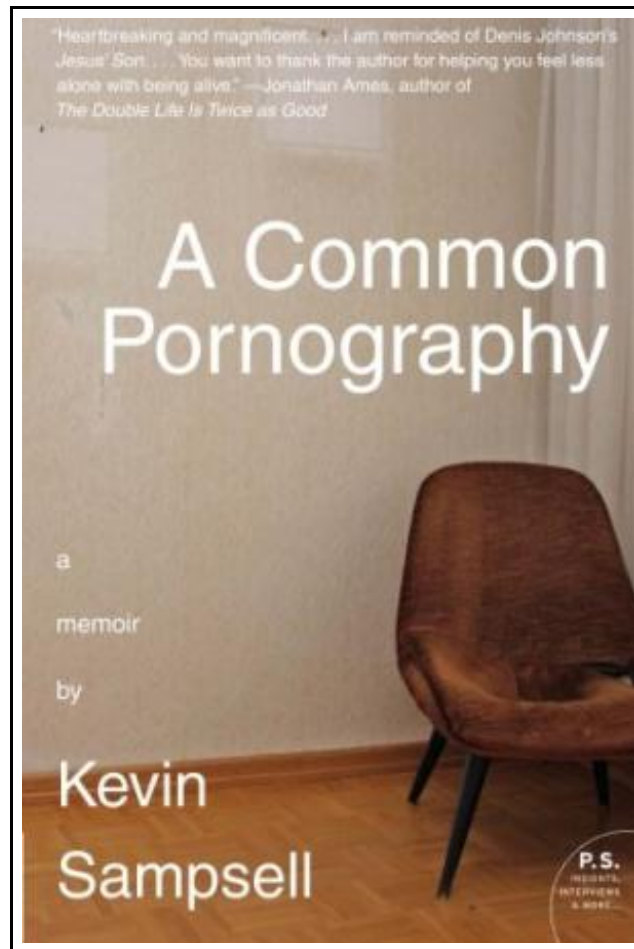


## A Common Pornography: A Memoir



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## A COMMON PORNOGRAPHY: A MEMOIR



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 Kevins estranged father died of an aneurysm. When he returned home to Kennewick, Washington for the funeral, Kevins mother revealed to him disturbing threads in their family history -- stories of incest, madness, betrayal, and death -- which retroactively colored Kevins memories of his upbringing and youth. He learned of his mothers 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 fathers 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 pounds, diabetic, having endured numerous shock treatments. Then, after finally returning home, she was made pregnant by Kevins father. Only at the end of the book do we learn what chance in life a person like this has. While his familys story provides the framework of the book, whats left in between is Kevins story of growing up in the Pacific Northwest. He tells of his first jobs, first bands, first loves, and one worn, teal blue suitcase filled with the choicest porn in all of Kennewick, Washington. Employing the same form of memoir as he did in his previous...



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