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How I Became a Nun

By Cesar Aira

New Directions. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 128 pages. Dimensions: 6.9in. x 5.0in. x 0.5in. A sinisterly funny modern-day *Through the Looking Glass* that begins with cyanide poisoning and ends in strawberry ice cream. My story, the story of how I became a nun, began very early in my life; I had just turned six. The beginning is marked by a vivid memory, which I can reconstruct down to the last detail. Before, there is nothing, and after, everything is an extension of the same vivid memory, continuous and unbroken, including the intervals of sleep, up to the point where I took the veil. So starts Cesar Aira's astounding autobiographical novel. Intense and perfect, this invented narrative of childhood experience bristles with dramatic humor at each stage of growing up: a first ice cream, school, reading, games, friendship. The novel begins in Aira's hometown, Coronel Pringles. As self-awareness grows, the story rushes forward in a torrent of anecdotes which transform a world of uneventful happiness into something else: the anecdote becomes adventure, and adventure, fable, and then legend. Between memory and oblivion, reality and fiction, Cesar Aira's *How I Became a Nun* retains childhood's main treasures: the reality of fable...



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Reviews

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