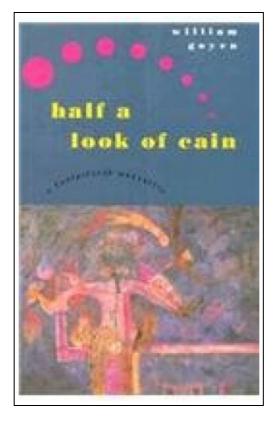
# Half a Look of Cain: A Fantastical Narrative (Hardback)



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### Reviews

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## HALF A LOOK OF CAIN: A FANTASTICAL NARRATIVE (HARDBACK)



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Northwestern University Press, United States, 1994. Hardback. Condition: New. New. Language: English . Brand New Book. I was twenty when I followed away from my town a trapeze family, aerialists, a group of beautiful winged people, mother, father, son and daughter. They were the Ishbels. Chris, whose leg is injured, and his lover Stella, with whom he lives in a ruined, abandoned house; Chris s male nurse; Marvello the circus aerialist; a lighthouse keeper; a flagpole sitter in small-town America - these are the creatures of William Goyen s visionary fable of love, lust, and loneliness. Half a Look of Cain: A Fantastical Narrative was written in the 1950s and early 1960s, and is now being published for the first time. Part fable and part rhapsodic exploration of desire and loss, Half a Look of Cain bears Goyen s unmistakable artistic signature on every page. Too far ahead of its time in its swirling visionary structure, this novel was rejected by Goyen s first publisher as not sufficiently commercial and remained unpublished despite extensive revisions. The novel is shaped as a group of medallions - a series of related episodes. It dreams of defying mortality - as if living in the air, like the aerialists or the flagpole sitter - and of finding perfect companionship in lover and friend. The novel is both a rediscovered cry against the conformity and suppressed emotions of the 1950s and a celebration of passion. Reginald Gibbons has edited the novel from the author's multiple manuscripts and has contributed an illuminating afterword.



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