



Happenstance

By Robert Root

University of Iowa Press. Paperback / softback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Happenstance, Robert Root, Reflecting on how a student's parents met because of a fly ball to center field in a summer softball game, author Robert Root wondered how the lives of that student's parents and of the student himself would have changed had the batter bunted or struck out. Haunted by this pure example of happenstance, he began to ponder his own existence, dependent in part on geology (the Niagara Escarpment) and history (the Erie Canal). He wondered how happenstance had influenced the course of his parents' lives, in particular their marriages (they married and divorced each other twice), and consequently the shaping of his identity. "Happenstance" investigates the effects of that phenomenon and choice on one man's life. Root explores this theme in interwoven strands of narrative, interpretation, and reflection. One strand, The Hundred Days, follows his attempt to write one hundred journal entries, each about a different day in his life, to recover memories of specific moments or collections of moments. In the strand headed Album, he examines and interprets old family photographs in light of the way he reads them in the present,...

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