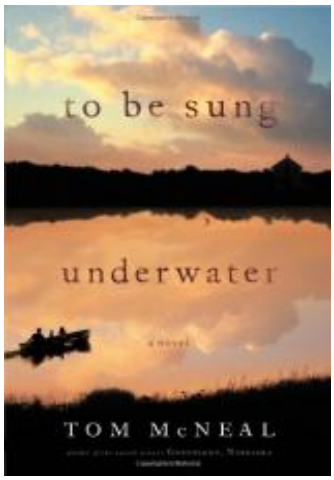
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To Be Sung Underwater

by Tom McNeal



About the Book

What do you remember about your first love?

As the veneer of her happy life in California is beginning to crack, Judith Whitman recalls the serenity she felt decades earlier, when she was 17 and living in her father?s house in Nebraska. There --- before her marriage to a banker, before the birth of her daughter, before her career as a film editor --- Judith met Willy Blunt, a carpenter whose pale blue eyes and easy smile awakened in Judith the reckless girl he alone imagined her to be. If she were to encounter Willy again, could Judith reconnect with her purer, better self? Tom McNeal points us toward the answer in this heartwrenching, captivating story about who we are with the ones we love, and who we are without them.

Discussion Guide

Author Bio

Tom McNeal was born in Santa Ana, California, where his father and grandfather raised oranges. He spent part of every summer at the Nebraska farm where his mother was born and raised, and after earning a BA in English at UC Berkeley and an MFA in Creative Writing at UC Irvine, he taught school in the town that was the inspiration for his first novel, Goodnight, Nebraska. Tom has been a Wallace Stegner Fellow and a Jones Lecturer at Stanford University, and his short stories have been widely anthologized.

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