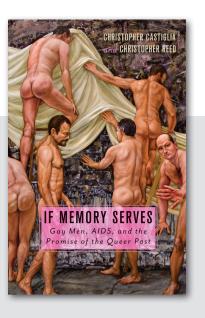
# If Memory Serves

Gay Men, AIDS, and the Promise

of the Queer Past

Christopher Castiglia and Christopher Reed

Challenging many assumptions behind first-wave queer theory, If Memory Serves offers a new perspective on the emergence of contemporary queer culture from the suppression and repression of gay memory. Drawing on a rich archive of videos, films, television shows, novels, monuments, paintings, and sculptures created in the wake of



the epidemic, the authors reveal a resistance among critics to valuing-even recognizing-the inscription of gay memory in art, literature, popular culture, and the built environment. Castiglia and Reed explore such topics as the unacknowledged ways in which the popular sitcom Will and Grace circulated gay subcultural references and the generation of "ideality politics" in the art of Félix González-Torres, the film Chuck & Buck, and the independent video Video Remains.

Castiglia and Reed demonstrate that memory is crafted in response to inadequacies in the present-and therefore a constructive relation to the past is essential to the imagining of a new future.

"A brilliant and powerful argument for memory as an activist act, a refusal to live in the present as is, and a vital tool for reinvigorating queer theory." -Elizabeth Freeman, author of Time Binds

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