



## Some Women I Have Known

*John Schwartz*

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"A wistful memoir..." *Kirkus Review*: "If imitation is indeed the sincerest form of flattery, then Joost van der Poorten Schwartz (or Maarten Maartens as he was called in publishing circles) scored the jackpot. One hundred years after his death, his grandnephew has crafted a memoir loosely modeled after one of the elder's books. While the elder Schwartz's stories focused mostly on "high-society women of the Victorian period," his grandnephew, a native of Holland, isn't as picky. Readers are introduced to various women, most of whom--with the rare exception of his grandmother Lady D and actress Audrey Hepburn, a distant family relative--were the objects of the author's amorous attentions. A steady parade of women--Ann the Beautiful, Tisja the Village Beauty, Irene Femme Fatale, Ingrid the Magnificent Viking, etc.--marches across the pages. Schwartz, who was 9 when World War II ended, captures a slice of upper-crust life with his depictions of elaborate breakfasts at his grandparents' home in rural Holland, complete with silver breadbaskets. Glimpses of old Europe--including pinewood lodges and ski resorts--are also lovingly rendered."

*Some Women I Have Known* is a coming-of-age tale. John van Dorn, whose grandmother and Audrey Hepburn are the early pillars in his life, yearns for a true love and meets some playful, perilous, and wonderful women along the way. He rides a pony with soon-to-be film star Audrey Hepburn, experiences tender moments with his cello-playing sweetheart while at boarding school, loses his virginity in a risky adventure, then savors several dangerous and unfortunate loves in Paris, Amsterdam, Geneva and the Swiss Alps, learning that life is full of losses and ephemeral relationships. After rescuing a woman in the middle of Africa and a narrow escape of life and death, he finally finds peace of mind with a warm and beautiful Caribbean goddess in the United States.

Each tale can be read in one sitting. So, relax and enjoy with a lush glass of wine, a smooth VSOP brandy or a cup of mellow cappuccino, and smile or drop a tear.

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