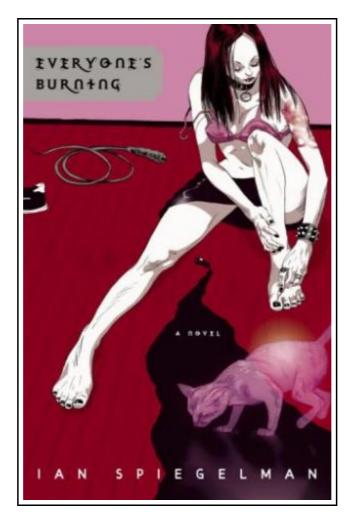
Everyone's Burning: A Novel



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Reviews

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EVERYONE'S BURNING: A NOVEL



Westminster, Maryland, U.S.A.: Villard Books, 2003. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. 1st Edition. Product Description: A young man without prospects finds his place in the universe--as a young woman's slave. Poised somewhere between high school and adulthood, Leon Koch roams the bars and bedrooms of Bayside, Queens, twenty minutes and a thousand psychic miles from Manhattan--a multicultural landscape where the line dividing the middle class from the street gangs has been obliterated. With his two best friends just out of prison for pipe-bombing a house, Koch discovers that cocaine and alcohol have imbued him with "superpowers," twisting his mind into a plexus where love, fear, violence, and intimacy are indistinguishable. As life becomes a waking nightmare spent fighting with police, predators, and the lawabiding, unscarred citizens he dismisses as "normals," Koch drives relentlessly toward a fantasy zone. What he finds is a fetishistic realm of worship and ritual where people are never quite certain whether they're roleplaying or getting played by their roles. Testing the bounds of sensation under the constant threat of violence, Koch explores a world that is a slave to its own secrets, where freedom exists only in a 911 call from the brink of self-annihilation. Told in a hallucinatory, street-poetic voice, Everyone's Burning depicts the lives and deaths of a generation that raised itself on Star Wars, talk shows, and Charles Manson interviews. Koch is a bleary yet gimlet-eyed tour guide through one of their neighborhoods. From the Back Cover: "This is a body-slam of a first novel. The writing is rough and rich, a shaken-and-stirred blend of Pete Dexter, Hubert Selby, Jr. and Richard Price. The characters are sadly all-too-real, scraping past the underbelly of the outer boroughs of New York City, looking no further than the next drink, score and sunrise....

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