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My Queer Life

Michael Thomas Ford
Michael Thomas Ford, narrator
Fluid Words (September 2000)
Unknown $18.00 (pp)
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Ford is making a name for himself as the leading gay male humorist. His humor column, “My Queer Life,” is published in many gay/lesbian newspapers across the country. His first two collections of the column, Alec Baldwin Doesn’t Love Me and That’s Mr. Faggot to You, were best sellers and both won Lambda Literary Awards for humor. His most recent, It’s Not Mean If It’s True, was published in September to good reviews.

Therefore, it’s not surprising that Ford’s work should be selected for translation into an audio book. Several of his best pieces from each collection are on this tape. “The Nonwriting Life,” about what a day in the life of a writer is really like, is extremely funny and something anyone who has ever called himself a writer can relate to. The greatest strength of Ford’s sense of humor lies in the fact that anyone that procrastinates can relate to this essay, even if they haven’t written anything since high school. That’s what takes his humor, as well, beyond the gay label. Straight people can also relate to giving up a wilder lifestyle and settling down, so is it so far a reach that they can see the humor in his observations about “leather daddies” who want to have children and become “soccer moms”?

The tape also includes three songs from the musical version of Alec Baldwin Doesn’t Love Me, which Ford is currently writing. This isn’t Gershwin, or even Cole Porter. Ford’s wry sense of humor pervades each of the songs, and it is impossible to listen to them without finding something humorous in each one.

PAUL J. WILLIS (November / December 2000)

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