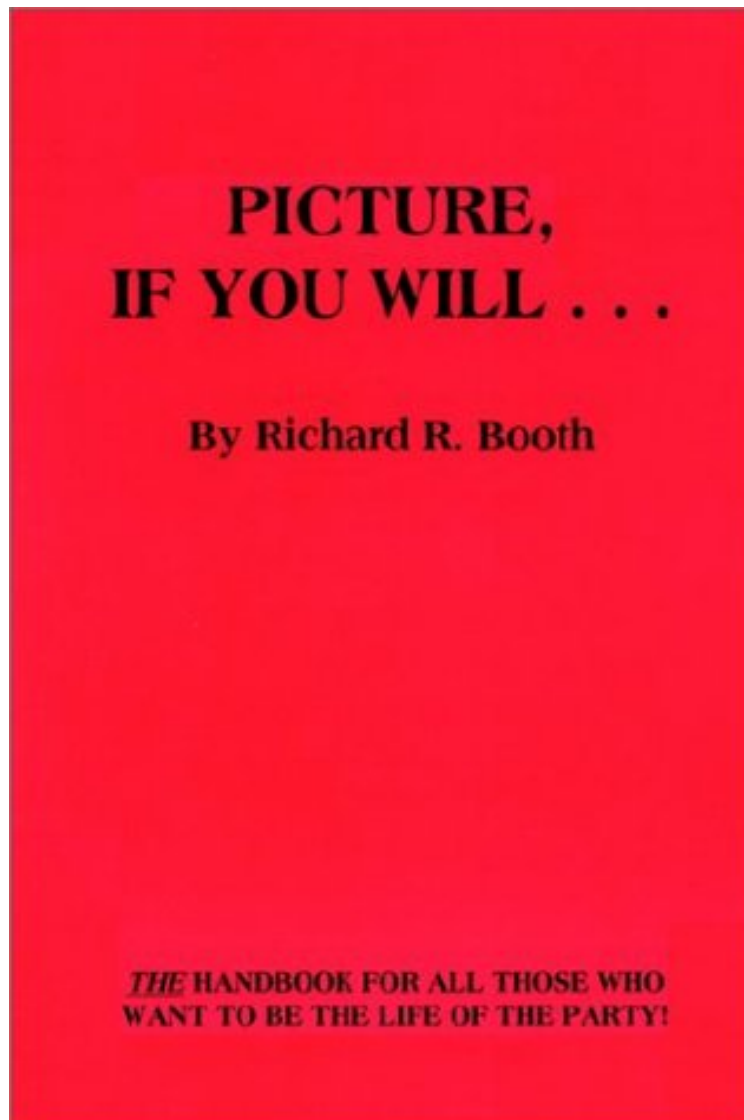


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Richard R. Booth

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Richard R. Booth : Picture, If You Will . . . before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Picture, If You Will . . .:

Back in June 1949 I started taking notes on the jokes that people told me The great majority of these were cocktail party stories in those days generally referred to as dirty jokes I did this because I had learned from experience that when I heard a joke for the second time I remembered having heard it before and usually the punch line but and this

was what galvanized me into action I found that I had not remembered the story well enough to call it to mind in sufficient detail to enable me to tell it to someone else This I find is a common problem among those who strive to be dedicated raconteurs or racontootsies So what I did with respect to recording new stories as I heard them was to immediately make notes on anything available consisting of essential clue words and the punch line My notes were composed with such particularity as to enable me in most cases to type the story in full when I was able to access my typewriter The next step was to tell the story a few times with a personal touch perhaps in such a manner as to eventually develop my reputation as one of the three or four best joke tellers east of the Rockies After typing the story up and adding it to my growing file I d condense it to a clue line assign a number and add it to my list This master list was numbered serially as jokes were acquired being typed with a pre Xerox carbon copy The original was placed in my file and the carbon copy was on or near my person at all times when I was in a social situation I became known for carrying this list around with me I have always made it a practice not to identify a joke on my list by the punch line for reasons that must be obvious If I were to show my list to a friend so that he or she might pick out a joke by the number assigned to it it would ruin the telling of the joke if the punch line were to be prematurely exposed right there on my list More recently jokes have been flying wildly through cyberspace somewhat will