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*Unforgettable man-to-man erotica from the
grand master of gay S/M*

I Once Had a Master

John Preston

"I once had a master who lived far from the city.... As he drove away from the station I would begin the disrobing. The removal of each piece of clothing marked the advance of our journey. By the time he pulled into his own driveway I would be naked, sitting beside him in the truck, waiting to begin the weekend. He would tolerate no limitation to my service...."

John Preston brings it back to the basics: a hand on a neck, a boot that needs a spit shine, a trick who leaves with bruises and sweet memories. In books such as the S/M classic *Mr. Benson*, reissued last year by Cleis Press, Preston explored power exchange in all its battered beauty. The sex stories in *I Once Had a Master* combine a hard-core sensibility with rare psychological insight.

In "Authenticity," a top turns down two fawning bottoms in full leather regalia in favor of the sweet-faced novice who offers genuine surrender. In "Pedro," a college boy has a summer affair with a truck driver and finds himself flirting with other men just to provoke his lover's rage. The lonely bottom in "Interludes" develops his body to perfection, then seeks out the Daddy who will cherish this gift.

Cleis Press is proud to return this landmark book to print in a handsome new edition as part of our John Preston series.

Quotes:

"After *I Once Had a Master*, hot gay fiction can never be the same.... The ideal against which all subsequent forays into the genre will be measured." — *DungeonMaster*

"*I Once Had a Master* is a surprising book, a collection of sex stories about much more than sex. John Preston has given us that rarity, a master we can be proud to acknowledge." — *New York Native*

"John Preston here is a mature and self-conscious writer, striving to capture the subtlety and depth of real, not pornographic, passion. *I Once Had a Master* is laden with nostalgia, the most potent of aphrodisiacs." — *Drummer*

About the author:

John Preston (1945-1994) is the author of more than 35 books. He was editor of *The Advocate*, and his articles and essays appeared in periodicals from *Drummer* to *Harper's* and *Interview*. *I Once Had a Master* comes from a series that includes *Mr. Benson*, *Entertainment for a Master*, and *The Love of a Master*. Preston is also the author of the autobiographical collection *My Life as a Pornographer*, and he edited numerous anthologies, notably *Hometowns: Gay Men Write About Where They Belong* and the *Flesh and the Word* series. John Preston was born in Medfield, MA, and lived much of his life in Portland, ME.

I Once Had a Master

John Preston
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