



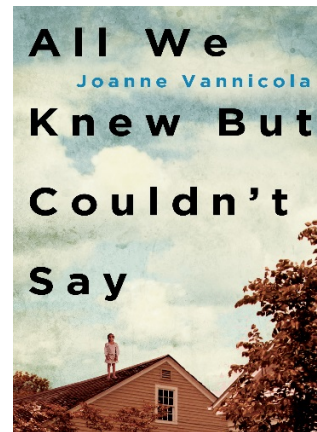
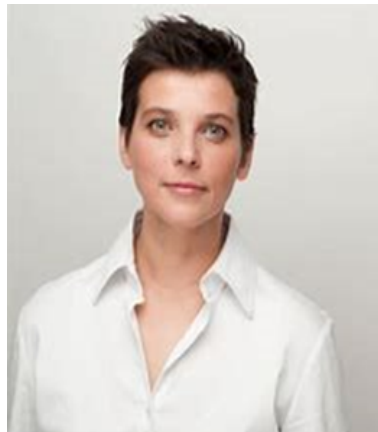
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**For Immediate Release**

***All We Knew But Couldn't Say***

**By Joanne Vannicola**



**Canadian Emmy Award-winning actor Joanne Vannicola releases heart-wrenching memoir *All We Knew But Couldn't Say* at the beginning of Pride Month**

Vannicola grew up in a violent home with a physically abusive father and a mother with no sexual boundaries. After being forced to leave home at fourteen, and after more than a decade of estrangement, Joanne learns that her mother is dying. Compelled to reconnect, she visits with her, unearthing a trove of devastating secrets.

Joanne Vannicola is a feminist, queer, actor with a story that has not been told so bravely and candidly before. In her book she talks about surviving childhood abuse by both her parents, leaving home as a teenager, battling depression and eating disorders and learning how to navigate the adult world on her own – while figuring out how to live in it and support herself.

***All We Knew But Couldn't Say*** is a revealing account of the entertainment industry and the prevalent gender stereotypes during the 80s. Vannicola gives a vivid account of coming out at a time when there were no lesbians in popular culture.

“We were invisible,” Vannicola says. “But I continued along my own path, and risked a career in order to save a deeper part of myself.”

In her book, she talks about that time period, when AIDS had decimated a generation and homophobia was acceptable, encouraged even. Vannicola illustrates her journey as an emerging actor, from Montreal to New York and San Francisco, coping with the sexism and homophobia in the film business at the time – and making it all the way to the Emmy’s in Hollywood – all by the age of twenty-one.

In ***All We Knew But Couldn’t Say***, Vannicola relates her journey from child performer to Emmy award-winning actor, from hiding in the closet to embracing her own sexuality, from conflicted daughter and sibling to independent woman. Her story is a testament to survival, love, and to Joanne’s fundamental belief that it is possible to love the broken and to love fully – even with a broken heart.

Joanne Vannicola has recently been awarded the 2019 ACTRA Leslie Yeo Award in recognition of her extensive work as an advocate for survivors of child abuse and violence, youth, women and LGBTQ rights. To promote the June 2019 release of ***All We Knew But Couldn’t Say***, she has select availability for interviews, excerpts and commentary contributions.

#### **About The Author**

Joanne Vannicola is an Emmy Award winning Canadian actor, writer, speaker and LGBTQ rights activist. With over 70 credits in film and television, she has previously been nominated for a Genie, Gemini and an ACTRA Award.

She is currently playing a principal role in the Netflix show ***Slasher: Solstice*** which premiered on May 23, 2019.

***All We Knew But Couldn’t Say*** is her first book.

***All We Knew But Couldn’t Say* [Dundurn Press] is available via all major online and brick-and-mortar book retailers in paperback and e-book formats as of June 1, 2019.**

