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Reviews

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(Trevor Greenholt DDS)

A TWENTY MINUTE SILENCE FOLLOWED BY APPLAUSE (PAPERBACK)



Sarabande Books, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. An Indie Next Pick for July 2017 7 Best Books of July, Men s Journal 10 Titles to Pick Up Now, O, The Oprah Magazine Most Anticipated Books of 2017, The Millions A unique, poetic critical appreciation of Marcel Marceau. A fascinating book. Readers will marvel not only at Marceau, but at the book itself, which displays such command of the material and such perfect pitch. --Kirkus Reviews, starred review As a fledgling radio producer, Shawn Wen became fascinated by the one subject who seemed impossible to put on air: French mime Marcel Marceau, the internationally acclaimed artist of silence. At the height of his fame, Marceau was synonymous with Bip, the red-lipped, white-faced mute in a sailor suit who conjured scenes, stories, and sweeping emotion through the gestures of his body alone. Influenced by Charlie Chaplin s Little Tramp, credited with inspiring Michael Jackson s Moonwalk, Marceau attempted in his performances to reveal the fundamental essences of humanity. Beyond Bip, Marceau was a Jewish Holocaust survivor and member of the French resistance; a bombastic iconoclast; a collector of failed marriages, masks, antique knives and doting fans; an impassioned workaholic who performed into his eighties and died deeply in debt soon after leaving the stage. In precise, jewel-like scenes and vignettes, A Twenty Minute Silence Followed by Applause pays homage to the singular genius of a mostly-forgotten art form. Drawing on interviews, archival research, and meticulously observed performances, Wen translates the gestural language of mime into a lyric written portrait by turns whimsical, melancholic, and haunting. Shawn Wen is a writer, radio producer, and multimedia artist. Her writing has appeared in The New Inquiry, The Seneca Review, The lowa Review, The White Review, and the anthology City by...



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