



## The Ordinary Acrobat: A Journey into the Wondrous World of the Circus, Past and

By Wall, Duncan.

Knopf. 1 Cloth(s), 2013. hard. Book Condition: New. When Duncan Wall visited his first nouveau cirque as a college student in Paris, everything about itthe monochromatic costumes, the acrobat singing Simon and Garfunkel songs, the juggler reciting Proustcaptivated him. He began attending circuses two or three nights a week, waiting at stage doors to eagerly chat with performers. So great was his enthusiasm that a year later he applied on a whim to the training program at France's prestigious École Nationale des Arts du Cirqueand was, to his surprise, accepted. Wall's irresistible memoir of his immersion in circus life is also a passionate discourse on how this unique live theater has evolved, from Roman times to the 20th-century renaissance inspired by Cirque du Soleil. "Lovely. There is plenty in The Ordinary Acrobat to set circusophile and circus-skeptic alike to dreaming."Washington Post" In this enchanting memoir sprinkled with historical anecdotes, Wall pulls the reader into the world of circus, past and present. His captivating journey of discovery may lead others to consider running away to join one."Publishers Weekly" Blending cultural history with biography, memoir and travelogue, Wall's carefully balanced book is, in itself, a successful tightrope traverse."Kirkus Reviews 323.

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