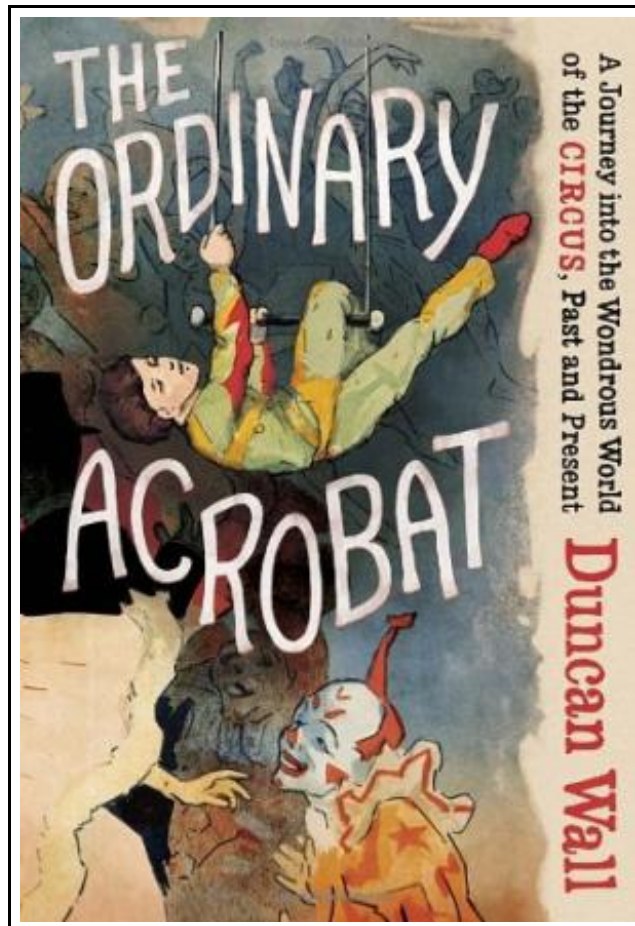


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Knopf. 1 Cloth(s), 2013. hard. Book Condition: New. When Duncan Wall visited his first nouveau cirque as a college student in Paris, everything about the monochromatic costumes, the acrobat singing Simon and Garfunkel songs, the juggler reciting Proust captivated 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 Cirque and 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 circusphile 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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