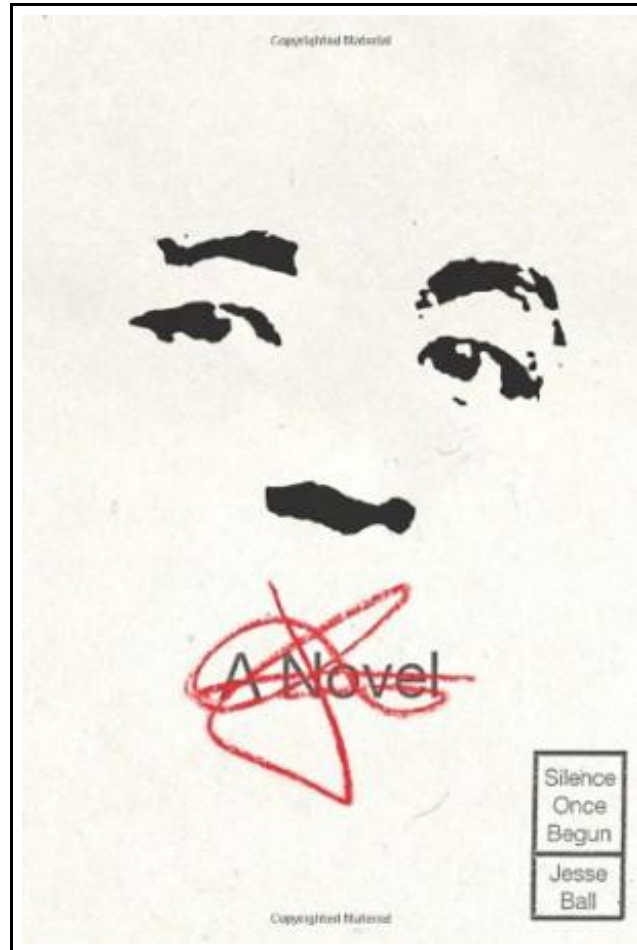


## Silence Once Begun: A Novel



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Summary: Praise for Silence Once Begun "Jesse Ball's strange, brief, beguiling fourth novel, Silence Once Begun, flirts with the hermetic . . . Ball enjoys borrowing some of the conventions of crime writing but in order to use them rather than to be used by them . . . His language is chastely lyrical, with a discreet musicality . . . He is often appealingly funny, in an absurdist manner reminiscent of the English avant-gardist B. S. Johnson . . . One of the triumphs of Silence Once Begun is the way that Ball enriches his metafictional restlessness with [a] humane curiosity . . . The language seems aware of the charged space around it, as if one were praying aloud in a darkened, empty church. His characters speak at once lucidly and uncannily; words have become strangely heavy." -- James Wood, The New Yorker "Remarkable. . . a clear nod to The Trial . . . not unlike the images that string together the similarly enigmatic quagmires of W. G. Sebald. . . a perfection of [Ball's] style . . . realism distilled to its barest essentials." -- Michael H. Miller, The NY Observer "Jesse Ball's Silence Once Begun resists the standard narrative tropes of contemporary novels. . . As in Kafka's The Trial , the justice of Silence Once Begun is both tragic and absurd. . . Ball has built in a few genuinely surprising twists that exist solely because of how the story is structured. That's an accomplishment; Silence Once Begun is a fascinating project in which almost everything is stripped away but the contradictory stories people tell." -- Carolyn Kellogg, The LA Times "A Kafkaesque premise rests at the center of...



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