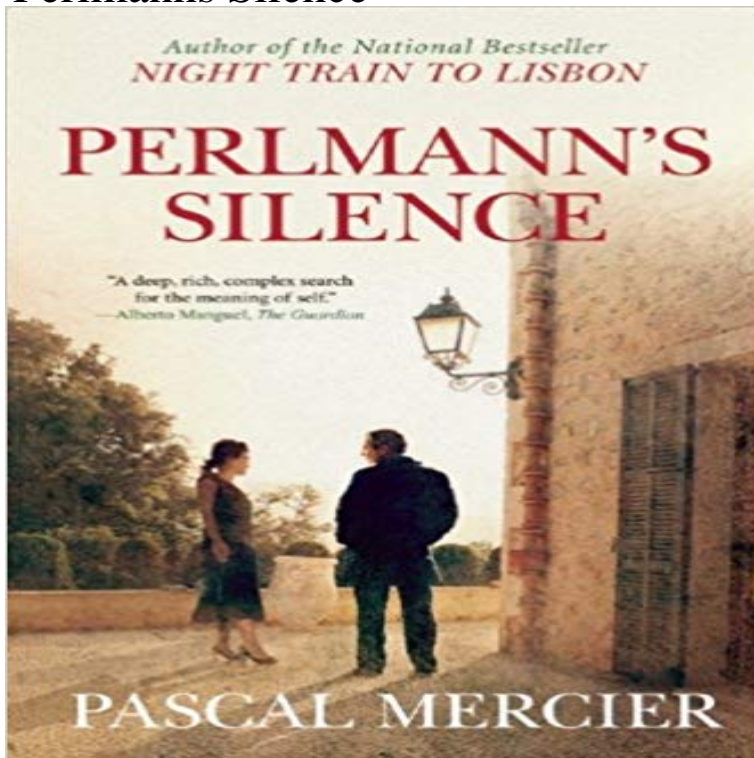


## Perlmanns Silence



What might have been, in less talented hands, an amusing literary thriller is, in Merciers prose . . . something far more complex. Alberto Manguel, *The Guardian* (UK) *Night Train to Lisbon*, a tremendous international best seller, established Pascal Mercier as one of the most striking European voices in recent years, a writer whose finely wrought language and suspenseful narratives captivate readers hearts and minds while equally quickening their pulses. Now, in *Perlmanns Silence*, Mercier returns with a deft psychological portrait of a man striving to get his life back on track in the wake of his beloved wifes death. Philipp Perlmann is a prominent linguist whos come to a picturesque seaside town near Genoa to speak at a gathering of renowned international colleagues. Derailed by grief over his wifes sudden death in an accident, Perlmann is no longer confident of his professional standing, and writing his keynote address seems like an insurmountable task. As the deadline approaches, Perlmann realizes that he will have nothing to present to his expectant colleagues. Panic sets in and he decides to plagiarize the work of Leskov, a Russian colleague who was unable to attend. But when Leskovs imminent arrival is announced and threatens to expose Perlmann as a fraud, Perlmanns mounting desperation drives him to the brink of murder. An exquisite, captivating portrait of a mind slowly unraveling, *Perlmanns Silence* is a brilliant, textured meditation on the complex interplay between language and memory, and the depths of the human psyche.

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