

Silence





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Silence

Shusaku Endo

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Book by Endo Shusaku



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Reliure: Relié Revue de presse

Endo's stark, strange theological novel looks back to 17th-century Japan to raise an enduring question: why does God remain with folded arms, silent in the face of human suffering? Telling the story of Fr Rodrigues, a Portuguese Jesuit who follows his missionary vocation to Japan at a time of violent religious persecution, Silence is a compelling historical fiction, a potent distillation of the paradoxes and ambiguities of faith and, from a Christian author, a daring challenge to religious orthodoxy. --The Guardian 1000 Novels Everyone Must Read

A remarkable work . . . sombre, delicate and startlingly empathetic. -- John Updike, New Yorker

One of the finest historical novels written by anyone, anywhere . . . Flawless. --David Mitchell Présentation de l'éditeur

Silence is the most important novel of the acclaimed Japanese author Shusaku Endo. It caused a major controversy in Japan following its publication in 1967. A Japanese Catholic, Endo tells the story of two seventeenth-century missionaries attempting to shore up the oppressed Japanese Christian movement. Father Rodrigues has come to Japan to find the truth behind unthinkable rumours that his famous teacher Ferreira has renounced his faith. But after his arrival he discovers that the only way to help the brutally persecuted Christians may be to apostatize himself. 'This is a masterpiece. There can be no higher praise.' — Daily Telegraph 'One of the finest novels of our time.' — Graham Greene 'Superb and harrowing — his masterpiece.' — Observer 'A marvellous book . . . Shusaku Endo is giving deep thought to the most basic problems of truth and how in exchanging it among ourselves we misconstruct its nature at every step.' — Spectator 'A remarkable work . . . sombre, delicate and startlingly empathetic.' — John Updike, New Yorker 'One of the finest historical novels written by anyone, anywhere . . . Flawless' — David Mitchell, Booker Prize-nominated author of Number9dream, Clouds Biographie de l'auteur

SHUSAKU ENDO is widely regarded as one of the greatest Japanese authors of the late twentieth century. Born in 1923, he won many major literary awards and was nominated for the Nobel Prize several times. His novels, which have been translated into twenty-eight languages, include The Sea and Poison, Wonderful Fool, Deep River and Silence. He died in 1996.

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