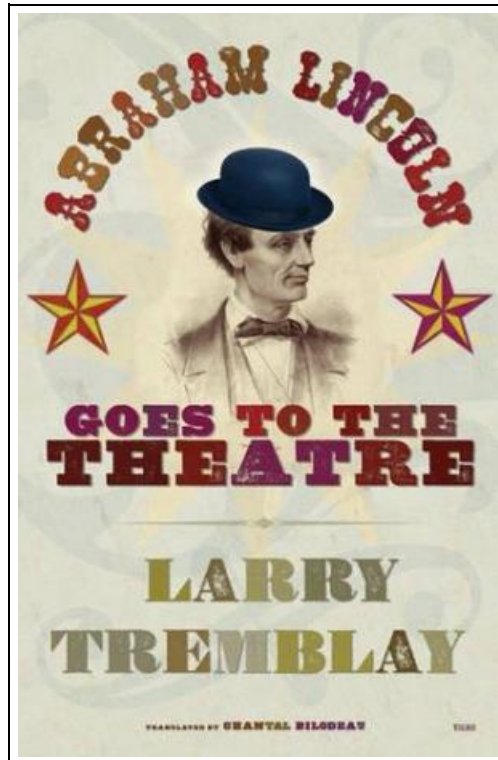


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## ABRAHAM LINCOLN GOES TO THE THEATRE (PAPERBACK)



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Talon Books, Canada, Canada, 2010. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. John Wilkes Booth assassinated Abraham Lincoln at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. Inside that theater today, Ranger Powell of the U.S. Parks Service takes crowds of tourists, the curious and the ghoulish through a step-by-step description of the assassination. Underneath the box where Lincoln was shot, he describes the plot of the comedy Lincoln watched that night, *Our American Cousin*, as being kind of like the *Beverly Hillbillies*. Scratch the surface of any story and underneath you will find layer upon layer of fiction masquerading as fact. The play's main character, Mark Killman--a feared but much admired director--draws inspiration from Abraham Lincoln's assassination to stage the schizophrenia of America. He hires two actors to play Laurel and Hardy. Both are to re-enact the assassination, while he himself plays the iconic role of Abraham Lincoln as a wax figure. The script is frequently self-referential, building on each of these retakes with further allusions to itself, telling the same story many times over in different voices from different points of view. Tremblay quite explicitly stages elements of literary theory with this play, including references to Jean Baudrillard's concept of the simulacra and the desert of the real, concepts first popularized by the movie *The Matrix*--the idea that in our post-modern world, the imitator has become more relevant than the imitated, and that the virtual worlds we construct are becoming more real to us than the real world. Absurd, hilarious and haunting, *Abraham Lincoln Goes to the Theatre* is an unforgettable mystery that asks the question: How can we ever know who we are and what is true when the world we know is shifting beneath us? Its answer is simple: John Wilkes Booth was the...



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