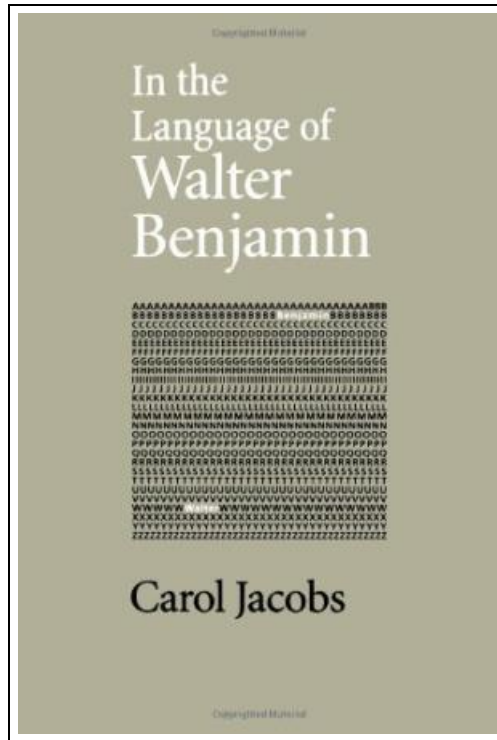


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JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY PRESS, United States, 2000. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.If Walter Benjamin (with an irony that belies his seemingly tragic life) is now recognized as one of the century's most important writers, reading him is no easy matter. Benjamin opens one of his most notable essays, *The Task of the Translator*, with the words No poem is intended for the reader, no image for the beholder, no symphony for the listener. How does one read an author who tells us that writing does not communicate very much to the reader? How does one learn to regard what comes to us from Benjamin as something other than direct expression? Carol Jacobs *In the Language of Walter Benjamin* is an attempt to come to terms with this predicament. It does so by teasing out such guidelines for criticism as Benjamin seems to offer in *The Origin of German Tragic Drama*. Jacobs reminds us of Benjamin's distinction between truth and knowledge. She above all insists on his method of philosophical contemplation as performance, on a performance that demands precise immersion in the minute details of subject matter. In what follows, Jacobs practices this immersion in the details of Benjamin's performance as she reads some of his key works: the autobiographical *Berlin Chronicle*, the apparently biographical study of Proust, the fictional autobiographical story of Myslowitz-Braunschweig-Marseille, and those essays on the theory of language so crucial to an understanding of Benjamin, *The Task of the Translator*, *Doctrine of the Similar*, and *On Language as Such* and on the *Language of Man*. The essays that follow were written over the span of an academic lifetime. They are the intermittent attempts from the late sixties through the early nineties in which I have tried to...



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