



Perfect Lives: An Opera

By Robert Ashley, Kyle Gann

Dalkey Archive Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Perfect Lives: An Opera, Robert Ashley, Kyle Gann, Raoul de Noget, an over-the-hill singer, and his younger pal Buddy (The World s Greatest Piano Player), find themselves in a small town in the Midwest. They become friends with the son and daughter of the local sheriff, and the four hatch a plan to do something that, if they are caught, will be seen as a crime, but if they are not, will be art: they will rob the town bank, take the money over the border into Indiana, and then return it all the next day. With this story at its center, Robert Ashley s inimitable Perfect Lives goes on to demolish every narrative convention in the book, taking in conflicting perspectives, texts, tones, narrators, and philosophies, roping in Midwestern ennui, pop songs, self-help tapes, heist movies, the lost city of Atlantis, dirty jokes, the history of American immigration, the preternatural flatness of Illinois, boogie-woogie, Giordano Bruno, and, finally, an elegy for thought itself. Perfect Lives is as much a summation of America as All in the Family or Paterson, and is every bit as essential.



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-- **Maymie O'Kon**

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-- **Lupe Connelly**

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