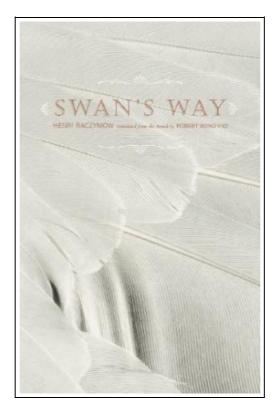
Swan s Way (Hardback)



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Reviews

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SWAN S WAY (HARDBACK)



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Northwestern University Press, United States, 2002. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Rarely has anyone taken Swann s Way down a stranger path, and never with such intriguing results. What begins as a meditation on the fictional identity of the elegant swan of Proust s In Search of Lost Time becomes, through a series of turns and twists, an ingenious investigation of the character s real-life counterpart, Charles Haas. Part novel, part essay, part literary sleuthing, Swan s Way is a critical tour de force. Through an inspired reading of Proust s text, Henri Raczymow gradually unravels the multiple contradictions of Charles Swann s personality, brought into focus by the fault lines in Proust s narrative method. The author traces Swann s evolution and the multiple ways in which his Jewish identity keeps peeping through the veneer of respectability of this sophisticated dandy. Through a parallel inquiry into the history of the Jockey Club to which Haas, a Jew, was, like Swann, exceptionally admitted and the transformation of the German-Jewish Haas into the fashionable British Swann, Swan s Way evolves into an examination of the question of personal identity and posthumous survival. Charles Haas s Jewish identity is the invisible thread that guides Raczymow through the maze of Proust s work, which serves as a backdrop against which fin-de-siecle French society enacts the ugly drama of anti-Semitism. Blurring the boundaries between life and fiction, Swan s Way leads the reader ever deeper into the unresolved question of literary and personal character.



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