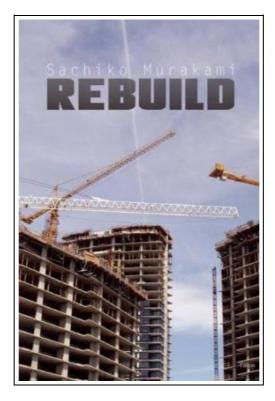
# Rebuild



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# Reviews

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## **REBUILD**



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Talonbooks. Paperback. Condition: New. 96 pages. Dimensions: 8.9in. x 6.0in. x 0.1in.ln a city ironically famous for its natural setting, the roving subjects gaze naturally turns upward, past the condo towers which frame the protected view corridors at the heart of Vancouvers municipally-guaranteed development plan. But look for the city, and one encounters a kind of standing wave of historical vertigo, where nothing ever stops or grounds ones feet in free-fall. Murakami approaches the urban center through its inhabitants greatest passion: real estate, where the drive to own is coupled with the practice of tearing down and rebuilding. Like Dubai, where the marina looks remarkably like False Creek, Vancouver has become as much a city of cranes and excavation sites as it is of ocean and landscape. Rebuild engraves itself on the absence at the citys center, with its vacant civic square and its bulldozed public spaces. The poems crumble in the time it takes to turn the page, words flaking from the line like the rain-damaged stucco of a leaky condominium. The citys native residential housing style now troubles the eye with its plainness, its flaunting of restraint, its ubiquity. What does it mean to inhabit and yet despise the Vancouver Special; to attempt to build poems in its style, when a lyric is supposed to be preciously unique, but similar, in its stanzas or rooms, to other lyric poems What does it mean to wake from a dream in which one buys a presale in a condo developmentand is disappointed to have awokenIn the books final section, the poems turn inward, to the legacy left by Murakamis father, who carried to his death the burden of the displaced and disinherited: the house seized by the government during World War II, having previously seized the land from its...



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