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pollution is, in a very real way, an environmental catastrophe. Traveling across the country and meeting and listening to a host of incredible characters, including doctors, neuroscientists, acoustical engineers, monks, activists, educators, marketers, and aggrieved citizens, George Prochnik examines why we began to be so loud as a society, and what it is that gets lost when we can no longer find quiet.

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of our modern world. Between iPods, music-blasting restaurants, earsplitting sports stadiums, and endless air and road traffic, the place for quiet in our lives grows smaller by the day.

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modern world and the discrete joys of earbud-free listening. Find a quiet corner in which to read this book, but then go out into the world and be prepared to hear it anew."

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More than money, power, and even happiness, silence has become the most precious—and dwindling—commodity of our modern world.

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Prochnik, who lives in Brooklyn, comes to Manhattan, and finds an oasis of silence in pocket parks and a church. This fascinating exploration of the clash between noise pollution

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and silence also contains material on soundproofing, the devastating effect of traffic noise on the cardiovascular system, maps that measure noise levels, and the work of anti-noise activists who believe in the right to silence.

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In Pursuit of Silence is a meditative film about our relationship with silence and the impact of noise on our lives. In our race towards

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**modernity, amidst all the technological
innovation and the rapid growth of our cities,
silence is now quickly passing into legend.**

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