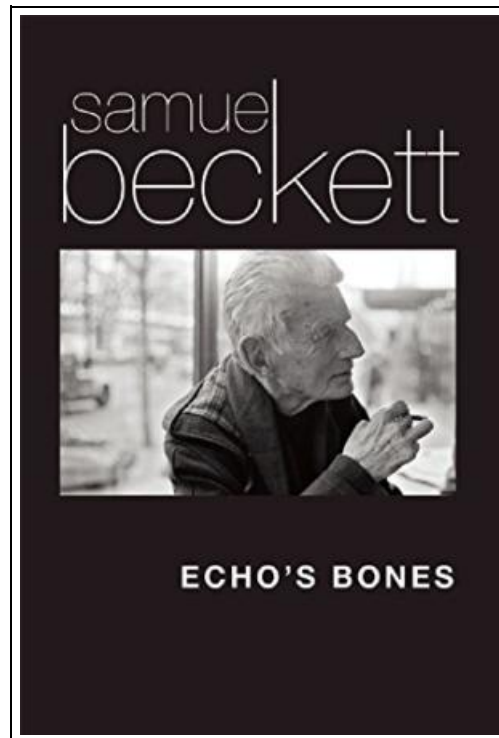


## Echo s Bones (Paperback)



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Grove Press, 2015. Paperback. Condition: New. Reprint. Language: English . Brand New Book. In 1933, Chatto Windus agreed to publish Samuel Beckett s *More Pricks Than Kicks*, a collection of ten interrelated stories, which was his first published work of fiction. At his editor s request, Beckett penned an additional story, *Echo s Bones*, to serve as the final piece. However, he had already killed off the protagonist, Belacqua, and had to resurrect them from the dead. Despite Beckett s efforts, the story was turned down by his editor and excluded from the collection, as it was considered too imaginatively playful, too allusive, and too undisciplined--qualities now recognized as quintessentially Beckett. As a result, *Echo s Bones* (not to be confused with the poem and collection of poems of the same title) remained unpublished--until now, eight decades later. It begins with the antihero returned to life, sitting on the cemetery fence and smoking cigars. There, he encounters a macabre triumvirate: a prostitute; an infertile baron who requests Belacqua s assistance in securing the future of his estate; and a groundskeeper who attempts to rob Belacqua s grave. The phantasmagoric events that ensue encapsulate Beckett s burgeoning preoccupation with the tragicomedy of existence that suffuses his later writings. In the introduction and critical notes, Mark Nixon situates this little-known text in terms of its biographical context, its textual references, its Joycean influences, and he examines how it is a vital link in the evolution of Beckett s early work. Beckett confessed that he included all I knew in the story, harnessing an immense range of subjects, from science and philosophy to religion and literature, combining fairy tales, gothic dreams, and classical myth. The posthumous publication of *Echo s Bones* marks the unexpected and highly exciting return of a literary legend.



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