Gabrielle Civil's *Swallow the Fish* is a memoir in performance art that explores the medium from within its beating heart. Adding its voice to black feminist conversations, it combines essays, anecdotes, and meditations with original performance texts to confront audience, motivation, and fears. Both joy and panic appear in Civil's world of performance, where neither walls nor city limits set the scope of the stage. Civil bares vulnerabilities and enthralls readers, asking essential questions and embodying dreams.

"Enjoy. Enjoy? Enjoy!" Perhaps this is Gabrielle Civil's calculus for performance art, though I suspect that accuses her praxis of being too pat. Instead, *Swallow the Fish* discloses that the "Enjoy?"—that doubt, her sense that she's maybe said or done the wrong thing—is catalyst and outcome. Thus, this remarkable book is a monograph and manual, a catalog and travelogue rendered as a progress of generative failures. An intimate showcase for Civil's fierce eros, mordant humor, and intellectual appetites, *Swallow the Fish* is also a vital record of how a black woman moves through spaces where desire and aversion make equally rough contact. So, enjoy! But enjoy(?), too.

–DOUGLAS KEARNEY, Author of *Mess and Mess and*