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Messenger: Poems

By R. T. Smith

Louisiana State University Press, United States, 2001.

Paperback. Book Condition: New. 228 x 140 mm. Language:

English . Brand New Book. A companion volume to his

previous collection Trespasser and the second book of the

trilogy Dreaming in Irish , Messenger continues. R.T. Smith s

exploration of the threshold between story and song.

Employing a disciplined and echoing free verse, Smith touches

the sources of emotion without losing his poems extraordinary

composure, offering coherence and order in service of the

ecstatic note. Binding the lyric to narrative, these poems move

almost imperceptibly from delicate descriptions of the poet s

native southern landscape to memories of a tender boyhood

amid Scots-Irish relatives to the customs and politics of

contemporary Ireland. They invoke Audubon, Bartram, Dickey,

Poe, and Joyce to pursue the mythic patterns behind everyday

circumstances and the joyful possibilities in work, music, and

family life. Smith weaves the language of Catholic faith with

both American and Irish rural surroundings, providing the fuel

for quiet allegories. He listens and observes, and seeks to

bridge the chasm between his world and his words, exercising

what he calls a desire old as cave paintings, the wish to entice

some wild thing and make beauty local, to bring...



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