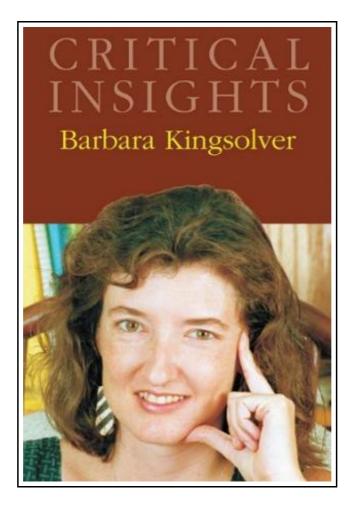
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Salem Press Inc, United States, 2009. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 236 x 163 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. This title includes in-depth critical discussions of her life and works. Over the past two decades, Barbara Kingsolver has built a sizable reputation as one of the most politically engaged writers in America. When The Bean Trees was published in 1988, Kingsolver established herself as a new literary voice willing to take on contemporary political and social issues like race, feminism, class, and immigration. Subsequent books, like Pigs in Heaven, The Poisonwood Bible, Prodigal Summer, and Small Wonder, reiterated these concerns and added others, most notably environmentalism. Today, she continues to be a formidable advocate of politically, socially, and environmentally conscious writing. This collection of essays, edited and introduced by Thomas Austenfeld, Professor of American Literature and Dean of the Faculty of Letters at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, offers readers an introduction to Kingsolver s life, works, and critics. Austenfeld s introduction reflects on Kingsolver s sense of place and her ongoing commitment to being a writer with a purpose, while four original essays provide valuable context for readers new to Kingsolver. These essays draw on Kingsolver s biography to discuss the evolution of her political convictions and locate her as an inheritor of the political fiction of the 1930s; review the major pieces of Kingsolver criticism and the popular reception of her books; demonstrate how her first novel, The Bean Trees, reworks the gothic tropes of Wuthering Heights and Jane Eyre to affirm positive portrayals of racial and ethnic others; and offer an ecofeminist reading of Prodigal Summer that reveals, how throughout the novel, the female protagonists reconsider their relationships with human communities and the land of the Appalachian South. Finally, this...

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