



Leaving Atlantis

By Esther R. Phillips

Peepal Tree Press Ltd. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Leaving Atlantis, Esther R. Phillips, Leaving Atlantis is a suite of poems that explores the unstable territory between public and private. They are addressed to the great Barbadian novelist and thinker, George Lamming, the silent but speaking partner in a relationship of love that comes between two writers when "your flag is flying at half-mast". The suite works at multiple levels, as a record of the negotiation of feelings, permissions, exclusions and treaties between two persons who have to confront the reality of long lives that have accumulated "memories I cannot share", and not least that the poet is a woman of deep religious faith, and the man a lifelong Marxist and non-believer. What the poems also deal with in a moving but resolutely unsentimental way is the fact that the age of one of the partners makes the temporal finiteness of the relationship a matter of acute awareness. What is the poet to think when she sees the man throwing out and putting his papers in order? "Clearing out?" The poems also meditate on the ironies of a relationship with a man who has both been public property as...



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