



## Kitchen Heat: Poems

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By Ava Leavell Haymon

Louisiana State University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 122 pages. Dimensions: 8.7in. x 5.8in. x 0.2in. Kitchen Heat records in woman's language the charm and bite of domestic life. Ava Leavell Haymon's poems form a collection of Household Tales, unswerving and unsentimental, serving up the strenuous intimacies, children, meals, pets, roused memories, outrages, and solaces of marriage and family. Some of the poems are comic, such as Conjugal Love Poem, about a wife who resists giving her husband the pity he seeks when complaining about a cold. Others find myth and fairy tale lived out in contemporary setting, with ironic result. Others rename the cast of characters: husband and wife become rhinoceros and ox; a carpool driver, the ominous figure Denmother. An elderly female is Old Grandmother, who creates time and granddaughters from oyster stew. The humidity of Deep South summers and steam from Louisiana recipes contribute to a simmering language, out of which people and images emerge and into which they dissolve again. Denmother went to college in the 60s, could pin your ears back at a cocktail party. Her laugh had an edge to it, and her yard was always cut. She grew twisted herbs in the flower...



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