



Plume: Poems

By Kathleen Flenniken

University of Washington Press, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Reprint. 229 x 155 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. The poems in Plume are nuclear-age songs of innocence and experience set in the empty desert West. Award-winning poet Kathleen Flenniken grew up in Richland, Washington, at the height of the Cold War, next door to the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, where every father I knew disappeared to fuel the bomb, and worked at Hanford herself as a civil engineer and hydrologist. By the late 1980s, declassified documents revealed decades of environmental contamination and deception at the plutonium production facility, contradicting a lifetime of official assurances to workers and their families that their community was and always had been safe. At the same time, her childhood friend Carolyn's own father was dying of radiation-induced illness: blood cells began to err one moment efficient the next / a few gone wrong stunned by exposure to radiation / as [he] milled uranium into slugs or swabbed down / train cars or reported to B Reactor for a quick run-in / run-out. Plume, written twenty years later, traces this American betrayal and explores the human capacity to hold truth at bay...



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