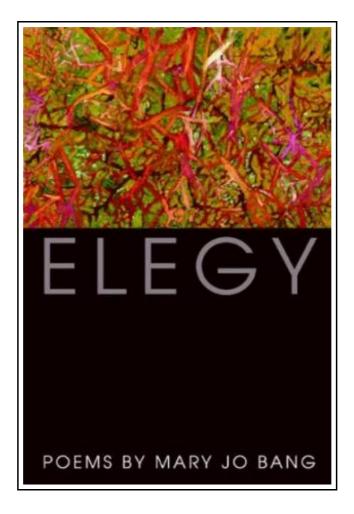
Elegy



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(Luciano Von III)

ELEGY



Graywolf Press. Paperback / softback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Elegy, Mary Jo Bang, The winner of the 2007 National Book Critics Circle Award in Poetry, and a 2008 "New York Times" Notable Book "Look at her--It's as ifThe windows of night have been sewn to her eyes." --from "Ode to History" Mary Jo Bang is the author of four previous books of poetry, including "Louise in Love" and "The Eye Like a Strange Balloon." She lives in St. Louis, Missouri, where she is a Professor of English and Director of the Creative Writing Program at Washington University. Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award Mary Jo Bang's fifth collection, "Elegy," chronicles the year following the death of her son. By weaving the particulars of her own loss into a tapestry that also contains the elements common to all losses, Bang creates something far larger than a mere lament. Continually in search of an adequate metaphor for the most profound and private grief, the poems in "Elegy" confront, in stark terms and with a resilient voice, how memory haunts the living and brings the dead back to life. Within these intimate and personal poems is a persistently urgent, and deeply touching, examination of grief itself. "The loss of a child--especially an only child who is in the prime of life--is one of the most painful experiences anyone can have and one, common sense tells us, almost impossible to render in an age of sensory overload. But Mary Jo Bang's "Elegy" is the grand exception. In its insistence on 'the inexhaustive / Need to be accurate.' "Elegy" is wholly absorbing. Avoiding all self-pity, false comfort, sentimentality or finger pointing, Bang's terse, oblique poems anatomize grief, guilt, and mourning in pitiless detail. Do things 'improve' by the end of the year...



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