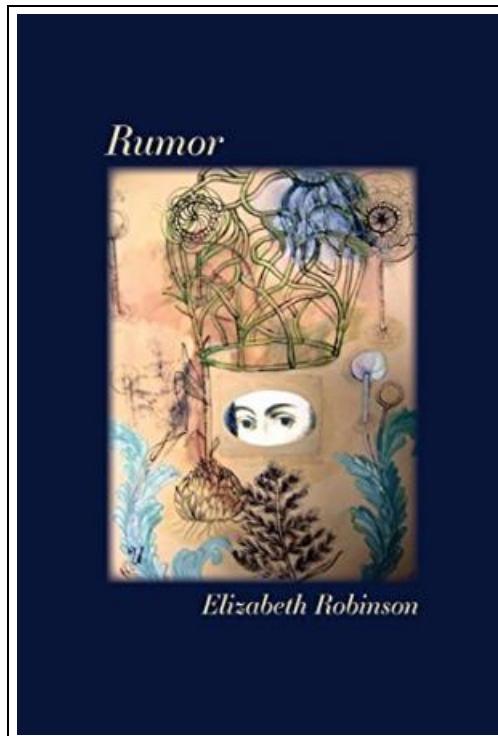


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Parlor Press, 2018. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Robinson's ambition in *Rumor* is enormous--to understand the problem of violence, to understand how power subjugates bodies and souls and turns them to use. In the world these poems inhabit, language itself is a violent power tool, a buzzsaw, precise, ruthless, and often wrong. Yet language's instability allows Robinson to turn it on itself to question categories such as gender. Through brooding, bloody, clearwater analysis, through delicate, brutally uncertain self-questioning, Robinson's poems create a frictive warmth that's not comfortable, but rousing. --Catherine Wagner Elizabeth Robinson has long been probing the interplay of the personal with the abstract or, as she has put it, the brick floor from which the/ kingdom of God extends/ or could extend. In *Rumor*, the poet-victim (whom grief evicts from herself) tries to take on the persona of perpetrator as if it were a sanctuary from which to explore and understand the violence: she lies a divided pronoun / . . . / knife slicing through softened self/. . . / She/ crouches over/ herself, a difficult/ situation. The poems worry at boundaries between subject/object, male/female/ transgender, but most of all between abstract violence and the physical (the teacher/ flayed by removal from/ the student). This process of incarnation, of word made flesh is frightening, nauseating, but must be faced: we cough up words made of flesh/ and eat them anew. Here I myself/ had no face, but took/ to smiling and wrapped my hand around my incomprehension. *Rumor* is fascinating, daunting, complex. Its exploration remains open, does not pretend to find answers, but instead offers memorable words: How firmly the answer closes its eyes. --Rosmarie Waldrop ELIZABETH ROBINSON is the author of multiple collections...



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