



On the Material (Paperback)

By Stephen Collis

Talon Books, Canada, Canada, 2010. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Structured in three parts, *On the Material* is a meditation on language, geography, socio-economics and the body, moving from the glut of fossil-fuelled consumer excess to the materiality of a single book. Composed almost entirely of quatrains (each page being comprised of four four-line stanzas) and written while travelling through North America in 2008, *On the Material* navigates issues of space and movement in the global age. As economies crumble, ecosystems fail and peak oil approaches, Collis records the production of a disarticulation of social discourse that our consumer society has generated: After all we made money out of matter here / Now condos shield us from the computer hum / Of on-line trading and wars ?ash on ?at screens / As 4 4s cool and ping mud covered in double garages. In its bridging second section, *I Fought the Lyric and the Lyric Won*, the desire to express wins out over the desire to possess. Beauty, contemplation and human communication seem to have abandoned the world, and their absence from the everyday has re-engaged the poet's struggle with language--has left a need to reinvent human discourse...



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