



## 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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