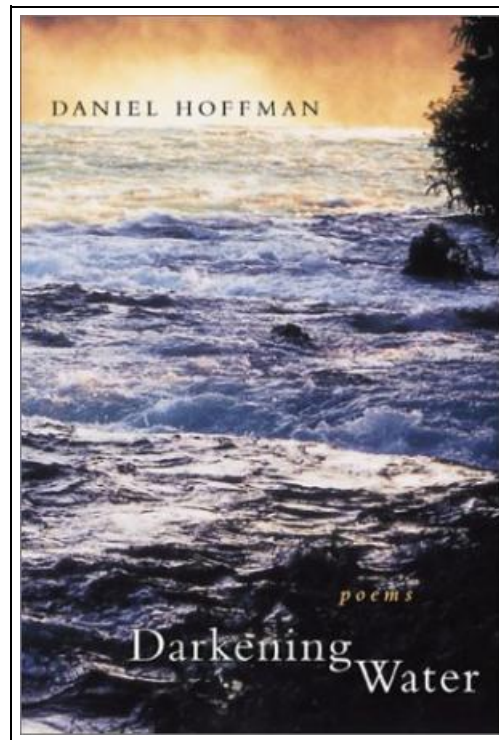


Darkening Water: Poems



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DARKENING WATER: POEMS



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Louisiana State University Press, United States, 2002. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 230 x 155 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. A major work, a record of our era, wrote Maxine Kumin in awarding the Paterson Poetry Prize to Hang-Gliding from Helicon, Daniel Hoffman's selected poems a dozen years ago. Of Darkening Water, his first collection since then, Fred Chappell observes, These poems have all the poet's familiar virtues -- clarity, grace where desired, accuracy of visual detail and of dialogue, and a formal mastery so deft that playfulness comes easily. Hoffman's dominant theme lies in the contrast (and often the necessary balance) between the primal, ancient, legendary strains of our culture and the new-fangled, distracting, but genuine imperatives of contemporaneity. Hoffman uses older forms and traditions to make something new and durable. The range of Hoffman's sensibility includes the primordial sludge from which life emerged and the coin-filled fountain of a suburban shopping mall, an enduring New England garden and the dancing woman in an ancient cave. His luminous poems create memorable characters, exploring man's relationship to nature and to time. Seemingly effortless juxtapositions create rewarding surprises. This refined collection by one of our finest poets reverberates with intelligence, close observation, and a deep respect for the possibilities of language. It is a treasure for Hoffman's many longtime readers as well as for those discovering his work for the first time.



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