



Draft of a Letter (Paperback)

By James Longenbach

The University of Chicago Press, United States, 2007. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. From the Second Draft: What other people learn From birth, Betrayal, I learned late. My soul perched On an olive branch Combing itself, Waving its plumes. I said Being mortal, I aspire to Mortal things. I need you, Said my soul, If you re telling the truth. Draft of a Letter is a book about belief - not belief in the unknowable but belief in what seems bewilderingly plain. Pondering the bodies we inhabit, the words we speak, these poems discover infinitude in the most familiar places. The revelation is disorienting and, as a result, these poems talk to themselves, revise themselves, fashioning a dialogue between self and soul that opens outward to include other voices, lovers, children, angels, and ghosts. For James Longenbach, great distance makes the messages we send sweeter. To be divided from ourselves is never to be alone. If the kingdom is in the sky, says the body to the soul, Birds will get there before you. In time, says the awakening soul, I liked my second/Body better/Than the first. To live, these poems insist, is to arise every...



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