



Old Hat

By Rob Winger

Nightwood Editions. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 96 pages. Dimensions: 7.8in. x 5.4in. x 0.3in. Author of the 2007 Globe 100 book *Muybridges Horse*, and Governor Generals and Trillium awards nominee Rob Winger's third book of poetry, *Old Hat*, is a collection of occasional poems driven by the attempt to understand how to reorder common experience. The transitional sections of the book (*ReSet*, *Set* and *Lect*) intertwine in theme and expression, though individually ranging in tone and voice. *Reset* revives the most common clichés of Canadian lyricism--nature and maple syrup, landscape, Icarus falling, human-rights rhetoric, war, ancestral migration, death, love, disease--to simultaneously validate and critique the experiential urgency of such themes. *Set* engages with the struggle of the individual against political and economic powers, through a vernacular voice, bringing forth the lack of agency as they signed Yu Darvish without seeing his fork. They signed their books without looking up at us. They gave you fries with that without even asking. The final section--*Lect*--simulates grad-school jargon, plumbing terminology, and the directives of GPS in order to explore the limitations of esoteric linguistic ontologies: Stay left on Ethics. Flow one-way street towards inertia. Stay left. Signal interrupted. Winger's explorations of semi-private languages move...



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