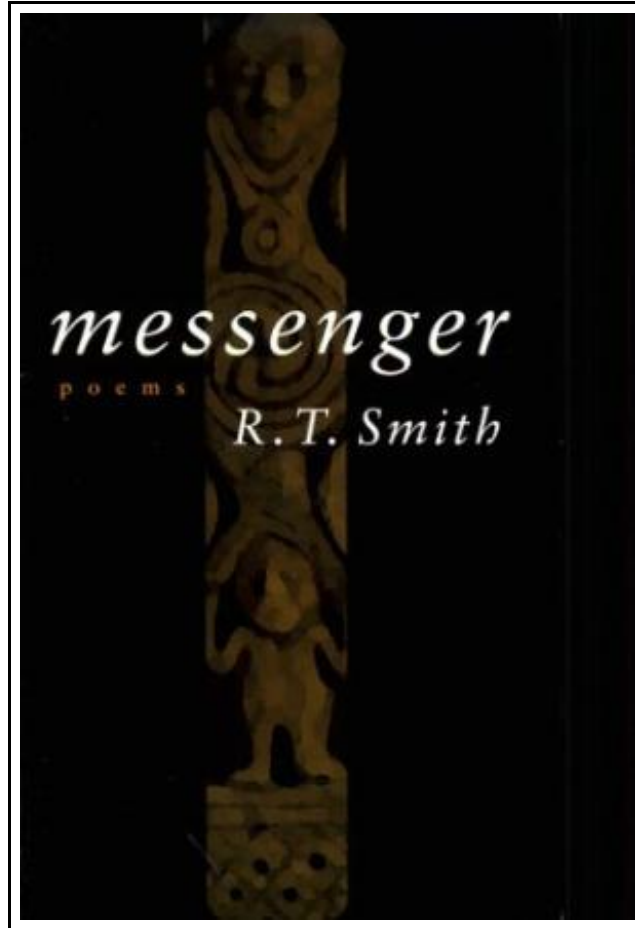


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Louisiana State University Press, United States, 2001. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 228 x 140 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. A companion volume to his previous collection *Trespasser* and the second book of the trilogy *Dreaming in Irish* , *Messenger* continues. R.T. Smith s exploration of the threshold between story and song. Employing a disciplined and echoing free verse, Smith touches the sources of emotion without losing his poems extraordinary composure, offering coherence and order in service of the ecstatic note. Binding the lyric to narrative, these poems move almost imperceptibly from delicate descriptions of the poet s native southern landscape to memories of a tender boyhood amid Scots-Irish relatives to the customs and politics of contemporary Ireland. They invoke Audubon, Bartram, Dickey, Poe, and Joyce to pursue the mythic patterns behind everyday circumstances and the joyful possibilities in work, music, and family life. Smith weaves the language of Catholic faith with both American and Irish rural surroundings, providing the fuel for quiet allegories. He listens and observes, and seeks to bridge the chasm between his world and his words, exercising what he calls a desire old as cave paintings, the wish to entice some wild thing and make beauty local, to bring something graceful close to home.



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