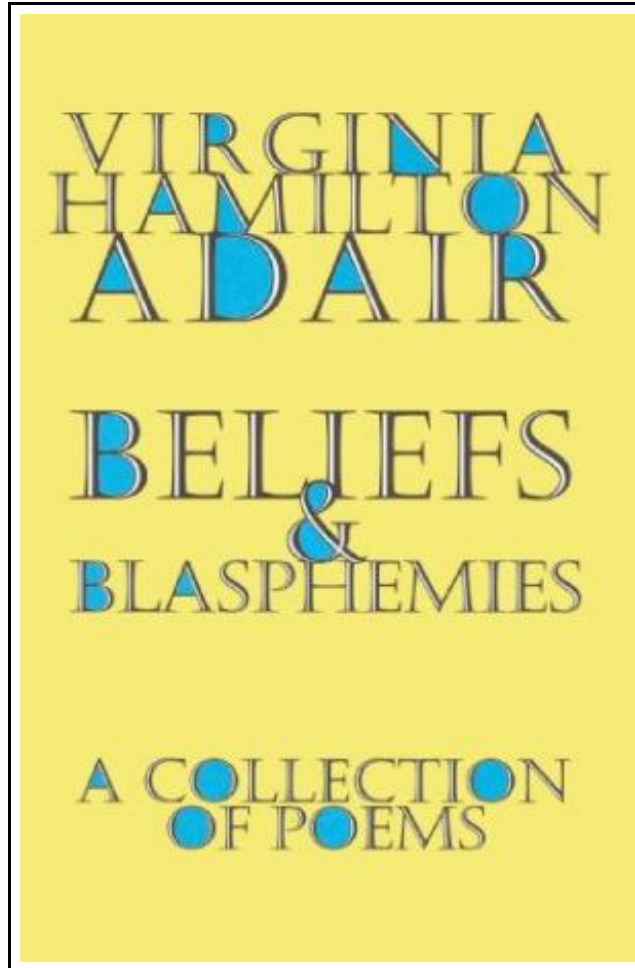


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BELIEFS AND BLASPHEMIES: A COLLECTION OF POEMS (PAPERBACK)



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Random House Publishing Group, United Kingdom, 1998. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 219 x 157 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Beliefs and Blasphemies exhibits the same qualities--accessibility, deep feeling, wisdom, humor, and technical brilliance--that made Virginia Hamilton Adair s first collection of poems, *Ants on the Melon*, into a bestseller and a literary landmark. Here Mrs. Adair devotes her attention to a single theme, religion, but in her brilliant performance the theme s variations turn out to be wide and deep--from reverence to iconoclasm, from comedy to profundity, from joy to lament. If you are looking for Hallmark platitudes or E-Z faith, look elsewhere. In *Saving the Songs*, for example, we reconsider Martin Luther s penchant for recycling barroom tunes into hymns: Said Luther of the singing in saloons, / Why should the devil have the choicest tunes? More soberly, in *The Reassem-blage*, we are asked to test the extremes of the Christian version of the hereafter-- one a verdict brutal beyond imagination, /the other by most reports an eternity of boredom --against our hearts hopes. The conclusion? Some myths are too terrible for our believing. *Goddesses* First muses about the primacy of female deities in many religious myths. *Choosing* uses the poet s virtual blindness to explain her celebration of the only distinction her frail vision can discern the literal difference between night and day. Zen temples and the chapel at a state mental hospital, animism and meditation, whores and angels--this curious, witty, and compassionate sensibility encompasses them all. Virginia Hamilton Adair is a uniquely American poet--restless in her lyrical investigations, hopeful and honest, rigorous in her formal accomplishments, spontaneous in her emotions. *Beliefs and Blasphemies* will appeal to anyone who has ever thought about first things or final things--anyone who enjoys speculating about...



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