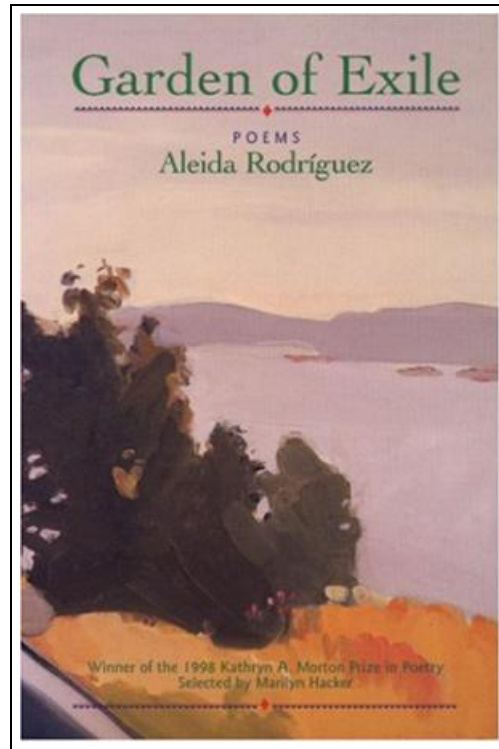


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Sarabande Books, 1999. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Aleida Rodriguez s first full-length collection of poems, Garden of Exile, was selected by Marilyn Hacker as the 1998 winner of the Kathryn A. Morton Prize in Poetry. Garden of Exile reveals a life enriched by layers of language and culture. Rodriguez was born in Cuba and emigrated to the Midwest at age nine via Operation Peter Pan. These poems are psalms that celebrate the pleasures of experience made palpable through language. Rodriguez counts her bilingual lexicon as a double blessing: Earth s language is a continuous current, / translating the voices of my early trees along the ground. / I can t afford not to listen. In her liminal world, the lyricism of Spanish and English mingle their most gorgeous incarnations: sinsontes, ciruelas, mamoncillos, meringue clouds, and the cluck of coconuts deliver a lost dictionary of delight. Rodriguez is a remarkably deft poet: not only is she fluent in two tongues, she articulates the delicate nuances of daily life. Whether speaking of water, flora, or women in love, she refuses to produce the poof of easy lyric like a rabbit from a hat. Though they nod to heady pleasures, these poems keep their wits. Rodriguez remains self-possessed, intelligent, and interesting, even in her most impassioned moments. She reveals perception as the self s real alchemy and, by so doing, makes the world appear right before our very eyes. Garden of Exile is the fifteenth poetry title to be published by Sarabande Books, a nonprofit literary press headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky. Since the 1996 debut of the press, Sarabande Books titles have received positive review attention from nationally distinguished media including The New York Times Book Review, Publishers Weekly, Kirkus Reviews, American Book Review, Small Press, The Nation, and...

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