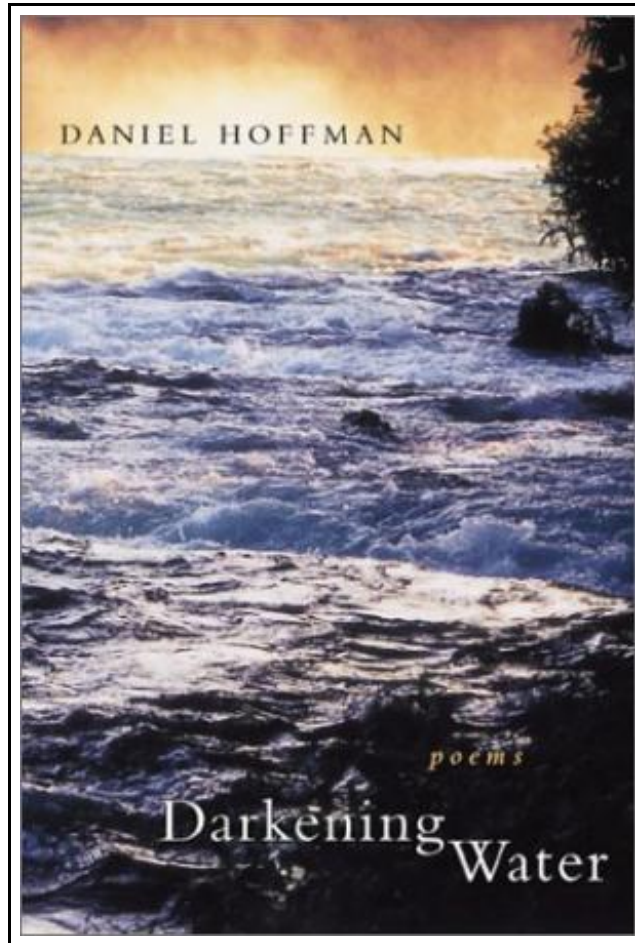


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Louisiana State University Press, United States, 2002. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 230 x 155 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. A major work, a record of our era, wrote Maxine Kumin in awarding the Paterson Poetry Prize to Hang-Gliding from Helicon, Daniel Hoffman s selected poems a dozen years ago. Of Darkening Water, his first collection since then, Fred Chappell observes, These poems have all the poet s familiar virtues -- clarity, grace where desired, accuracy of visual detail and of dialogue, and a formal mastery so deft that playfulness comes easily. Hoffman s dominant theme lies in the contrast (and often the necessary balance) between the primal, ancient, legendary strains of our culture and the new-fangled, distracting, but genuine imperatives of contemporaneity. Hoffman uses older forms and traditions to make something new and durable. The range of Hoffman s sensibility includes the primordial sludge from which life emerged and the coin-filled fountain of a suburban shopping mall, an enduring New England garden and the dancing woman in an ancient cave. His luminous poems create memorable characters, exploring man s relationship to nature and to time. Seemingly effortless juxtapositions create rewarding surprises. This refined collection by one of our finest poets reverberates with intelligence, close observation, and a deep respect for the possibilities of language. It is a treasure for Hoffman s many longtime readers as well as for those discovering his work for the first time.

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