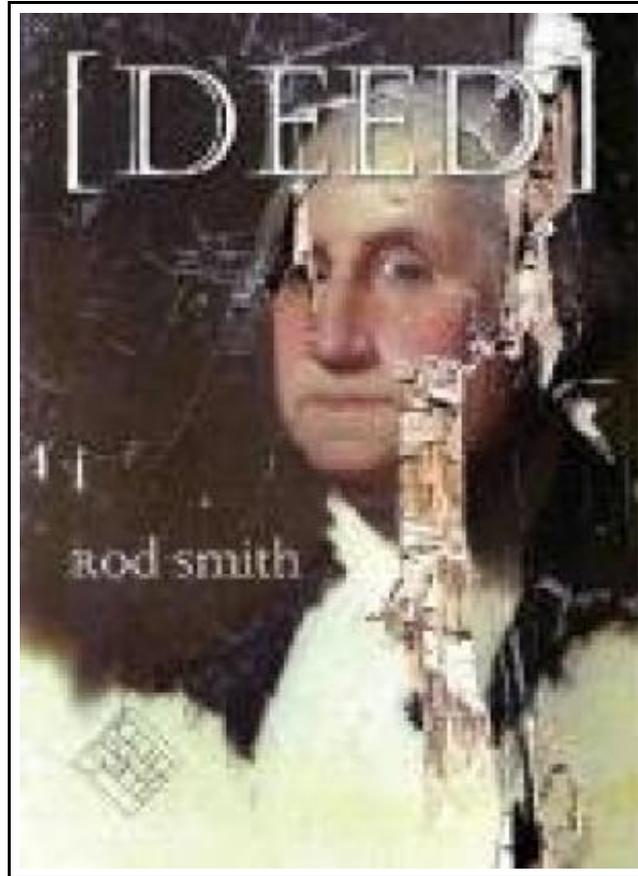


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DEED



University of Iowa Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Deed, Rod Smith, Mark Levine, Ben Doyle, "A Deed" is a governmental conveyance, a power asserted by the written, for, as William Carlos Williams wrote to Robert Creeley: "the government can never be more than the government of the words." The question of ownership, of the words with which we define ourselves and each other, and of whose and what claims are legitimate is much at issue in Rod Smith's "Deed", a lyric, ambitious, rebellious work thoroughly grounded in the New American tradition of poets such as John Ashbery, Allen Ginsberg, and Charles Olson. At the entrance to this collection stands an abode in the form of a long poem, "The Good House," a comfortable, at times soothingly humorous place that is also a site of conflict. In "The Spider Poems," the mythic spider, the maker of the alphabet, is a figure of fun and revelation. The third section of the book presents a series of shorter poems chosen for their stylistic variety. "Deed" ends with a nod to two masters, as Smith turns Jack Spicer's "Homage to Creeley" into a double homage with "Homage to Homage to Creeley." The gesture of choosing what one brings into one's house, what one decides to love, closes the book. "Deed" is about making as bequeathing, as celebration, and as impatience for the true democracy that is always yet to arrive. There is still joy inside and out, and by giving us "Deed", Rod Smith has captured that joy. In so doing, he tells us where we as a people, a politik, and a poetic are going.



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