Reflections on Espionage: The Question of Cupcake (Paperback)

By John Hollander

Yale University Press, United States, 1999. Paperback. Condition: New. New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.This book-length poem by one of the major poets of our era is structured as a series of messages transmitted by a master spy to the director of spy operations and to a number of his fellow spies. The spy speaks of his own alienation and sense of purposelessness as a secret agent-a metaphor for a human existence committed to ordering, deciphering, and making sense of a world of random signs. First published in 1974, the book is now reprinted with a substantial introduction by the author that elaborates on the genesis of the poem, the literary figures who inspired some of the characters, the poem s reception, and other matters. Reviews of the earlier edition: These poems can be read and admired for their fluidity, their wonderful diversity of significance. . . . Many delights. -Richard Poirier, Los Angeles Times Hollander s arch and subtle long poem allegorizes the mirror closeness between raveller and unraveller. - George Steiner, New Yorker Hollander explores with wit and virtuosity the pleasures of poetry (encipherment) and the trials of the workaday world (one s...

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