

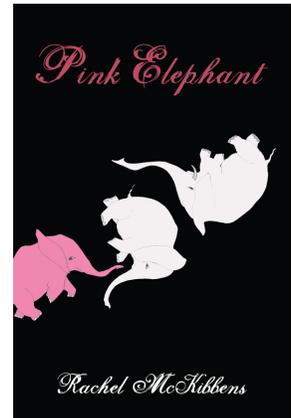


CYPHER BOOKS

310 Bowery, New York, NY 10012

PINK ELEPHANT

by Rachel McKibbens



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 6/14/09

Cypher Books

info@cypherbooks.org / www.cypherbooks.org

310 Bowery

New York, NY 10012

Cypher Books will release ***Pink Elephant*** by Rachel McKibbens on October 27, 2009 (\$12.95, Paperback, 96 pages), Publication date: December 1, 2009.

Pink Elephant is Rachel McKibbens' collection of beautifully crafted, emotionally searing poems depicting the fractured mythology of a family's tumultuous life. Picking up where Plath and Sexton have left off, McKibbens threatens the comfortable confines of confessional poetry with a take-no-prisoners surrealist and super-real edge. By creating a folklore out of brutality and violence (borne from misplaced or absent love) McKibbens ultimately locates both love *and* forgiveness, fearlessly placing them in their rightful home. McKibbens' ***Pink Elephant*** is an audacious debut.

ADVANCE PRAISE

"Pink Elephant is the white elephant in the room blushing into visibility, and Rachel McKibbens is a poet of unparalleled, unflinching honesty. With the tenacity of a survivor's "love-sharp teeth," McKibbens confronts the trauma of girlhood/womanhood —"the malicious thunder of it"— and gives the "inaudible song of happiness" a palpable, perceptible shape. This book is startling testimony and it will bruise the touch of all those who dare to turn its relentless pages." – Rigoberto González

"I literally woke up in the middle of the night thinking about these poems. They are compellingly beautiful with a perfectly-toned sadness. If these poems don't move you, you're dead inside." – Bucky Sinister

"Reading this book is like watching tiny horses trapped in a tornado; beautifully disturbing." – Mike Stilkey, who donated his artwork for the cover of ***Pink Elephant***

Rachel McKibbens was born in Anaheim, CA. She is a member and co-founder of the Right Coast Writers Brigade. Her poems have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies, including *World Literature Today*, *The New York Quarterly* and *Bowery Women: Poems*. Among other honors, she is a New York Foundation of the Arts Poetry Fellow, a Pushcart nominee, and the 2009 Women's Individual World Poetry Slam champion. She has read her work at universities, schools, galleries and various other venues across the nation. She teaches poetry and creative writing across the country at all levels. An ex-punk rock chola with five children, she lives in upstate New York. ***Pink Elephant*** is her first book.

"The events told in ***Pink Elephant*** are my roots. They are the stories I must claim to finally enter into this world as a daughter, sister, mother, friend, and lover. I spent eight years collecting its pieces, and thirty-three trying to understand their place. Many of them were written within the last year; in a momentary bout of daringness that allowed me to resurrect what I had left for dead two decades ago. Every time a snippet of my life story is revealed, there is always someone who says, "You have GOT to put that in a book." ***Pink Elephant*** is, for now, the parts of that story I am willing to tell."

TITLE: PINK ELEPHANT

AUTHOR: Rachel McKibbens

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