



CYPHER BOOKS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CYPHER BOOKS, A NEW YORK CITY-BASED, INDEPENDENT PUBLISHER, IS PROUD TO PRESENT *Pink Elephant*, the debut collection of poetry from Rachel McKibbens. Consistent with Cypher's mission to publish innovative and necessary poetry, *Pink Elephant* is a personal history and mythology, a collection of loosely linked narratives surrounding McKibbens' experiences as a young misogynist girl raised by whiskey bottles, schizophrenics, thieves and fairy tales. Picking up where Plath and Sexton have left off, McKibbens unleashes a houseful of confessions with a take-no-prisoners surrealist edge. By creating a folklore out of brutality and violence (borne from misplaced or absent love) McKibbens ultimately captures love and forgiveness, fearlessly placing them in their rightful home. *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, author of *So Often the Pitcher Goes to Water Until It Breaks*,
winner of the National Poetry Series

"Rachel McKibbens' debut is fierce and fearless, confronting taboos with a macabre irony and a sarcastic laugh. McKibbens has developed a unique style for wordplay, a wry sense of humor, a voice full of wide-eyed detail, and a maternal wisdom to survive the hellish landscapes of womanhood."

—Regie Cabico, three-time New York Foundation for the Arts Poetry Fellow

"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, author of *Whiskey & Robots*

RACHEL MCKIBBENS was born in Anaheim, CA, just a few miles away from Disneyland. She is a 2007 New York Foundation for the Arts poetry fellow and Pushcart Nominee. She has five children, one dog and has appeared on two seasons of HBO's Russel Simmons Presents Def Poetry. She taught poetry for four years at Bellevue Hospital in Manhattan and continues to teach creative writing across the country. Her poetry has been published in numerous anthologies and journals including *The New York Quarterly*, *Frigg Magazine*, *Bowery Women: Poems and World Literature Today*. Rachel recently became the 2009 Women of the World Poetry Slam champion, representing Rochester, NY.

TITLE: *Pink Elephant*

AUTHOR: Rachel McKibbens

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