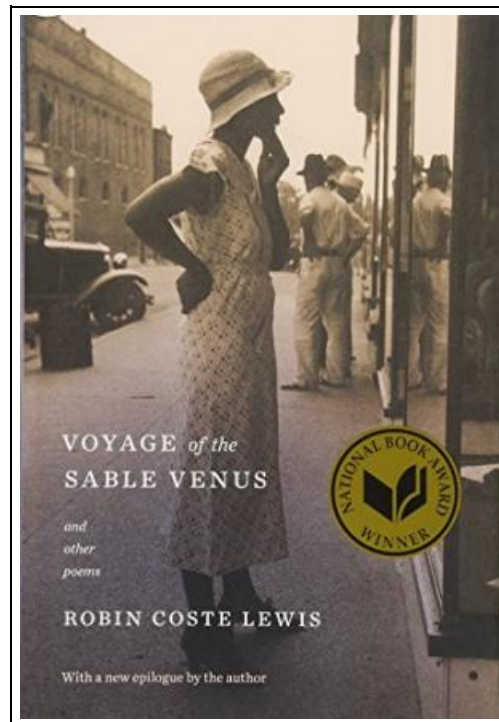


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VOYAGE OF THE SABLE VENUS: AND OTHER POEMS (PAPERBACK)



Penguin Putnam Inc, United States, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Reprint. Language: English . Brand New Book. Now in paperback, this National Book Award-winning debut poetry collection is a meditation on the black female figure through time. Robin Coste Lewis s electrifying collection is a triptych that begins and ends with lyric poems meditating on the roles desire and race play in the construction of the self. In the center of the collection is the title poem, Voyage of the Sable Venus, an amazing narrative made up entirely of titles of artworks from ancient times to the present--titles that feature or in some way comment on the black female figure in Western art. Bracketed by Lewis s own autobiographical poems, Voyage is a tender and shocking meditation on the fragmentary mysteries of stereotype, juxtaposing our names for things with what we actually see and know. A new understanding of biography and the self, this collection questions just where, historically, do ideas about the black female figure truly begin--five hundred years ago, five thousand, or even longer? And what role did art play in this ancient, often heinous story? Here we meet a poet who adores her culture and the beauty to be found within it. Yet she is also a cultural critic alert to the nuances of race and desire--how they define us all, including her own sometimes painful history. Lewis s book is a thrilling aesthetic anthem to the complexity of race--a full embrace of its pleasure and horror, in equal parts.



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