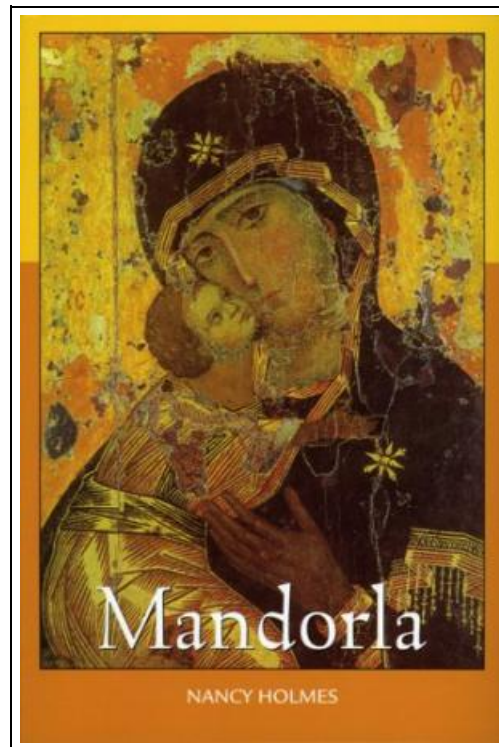


Mandorla (Paperback)



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Reviews

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MANDORLA (PAPERBACK)



Ronsdale Press, Canada, 2005. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Mandorla is a collection of poems about mothers and children, especially the mothering of challenging children, children with disabilities. In the first section of Holmes new collection of poems, the Virgin Mary is the archetypal suffering mother who worries about the fate of her son. Through a poetic re-drawing of the hieratic poses of icons of the Virgin in the Eastern Orthodox Church, Holmes comes to recognize the fear and absolute love for a child who is fated to be different. The second section moves out of cultural myth into family history, the Ukrainian side of the poet s family, people who settled in north-eastern Alberta in the first years of the twentieth century. In the last section of the book, the author focuses on her own experience of motherhood, its pain and comedy, its bewilderment and bedazzlement, its crushing collisions with schools and social systems. Holmes creates a triptych that opens up some of the emotional and spiritual adventure of being a parent, that most heart-breaking yet enriching of human roles, past or present. Mandorla is a generous, high-spirited trilogy that overturns the narrative of silencing that its subject so often inspires. Holmes portraits of women and mothers, both real and iconic, are flamboyant gestures of affection and difficulty. - Sharon Thesen.



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