

Synopsis

Nobel Laureate Pablo Neruda explored many schools of thought, poetic styles, and voices, but his passion lay in finding and improvising upon basic rhythms of perception to reveal unspoken and unspeakable truths. Copper Canyon Press has published seven volumes of Neruda's poetry. Six volumes were translated by William O'Daly and one volume of poems was translated by James Nolan. "A devastating sequence of poems...translated into a beautiful, hypnotic English."-Bloomsbury Review"Here, as in much of Neruda's poetry, the personal and political collide, driven by his overriding concern: how does one person-a writer-change the world? His poems always plumb the unfathomable ambiguities of life, surfacing, finally, with a kind of balanced appreciation for the knowable as well as the mysterious"-Library JournalOther titles by Pablo Neruda available from Consortium:The Book of Questions (Copper Canyon Press), 1-55659-041-5 PB 1-55659-040-7 HCCeremonial Songs (Latin American Literary Review Press), 0-935480-80-3 PB Neruda at Isla Negra (White Pine Press), 1-877727-83-0 PB Neruda's Garden (Latin American Literary Review Press), 0-935480-68-4 PB The Sea and the Bells (Copper Canyon Press), 1-55659-019-9 PB The Separate Rose (Copper Canyon Press), 0-914742-88-4 PB Still Another Day (Copper Canyon Press), 0-914742-77-9 PB Stones of the Sky (Copper Canyon Press), 1-55659-007-5 PB 1-55659-006-7 HC Windows That Open Inward (White Pine Press), 1-877727-89-X PB Yellow Heart, (Copper Canyon Press), 1-55659-029-6 PB

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Pablo Neruda has some pretty big achievements: Chile's ambassador to France, a Nobel Prize for

Literature, and this particular title receiving Bloomsbury's Book of the Year. His life could never be described as dull...he's certainly not your stereotypical poet, pale and anguished, hidden away and perfecting his verse. Neruda was out and active in life. A Chilean Senator, various worldwide diplomatic assignments, plus a commentator on the activities in Chilean politics....he was never still. This beautiful collection, translated by William O'Daly, was written shortly before his death. In fact, several manuscripts were found on his desk after he died of cancer in 1973. The translator notes in the introduction that Chile was always his beloved home, one that he thought of in any other location he found himself. This fits with what Neruda says in "Many Thanks": "Why do I live exiled from the shine of the oranges?" He knew he was dying but never does he descend into self-pity or maudlin reveries. He acknowledges the big life he led, and in his final days he wants to simply meditate, focus on the simpler things (like a bird that approaches him as he sits outside alone), and retrieve the fondest of his memories. In "Modestly", he uses a play on the words 'see' and 'sea': Without doubt I praise the wild excellence, the old-fashioned reverence, the natural see, the economy of sublime truths that cling to rock upon rock in succeeding generations, like certain mollusks who conquered the sea. He shows some humor in "For All to Know", when he acknowledges that he's sometimes asked why he didn't write about some significant events. His response: "I didn't have enough time or ink for everyone...."

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