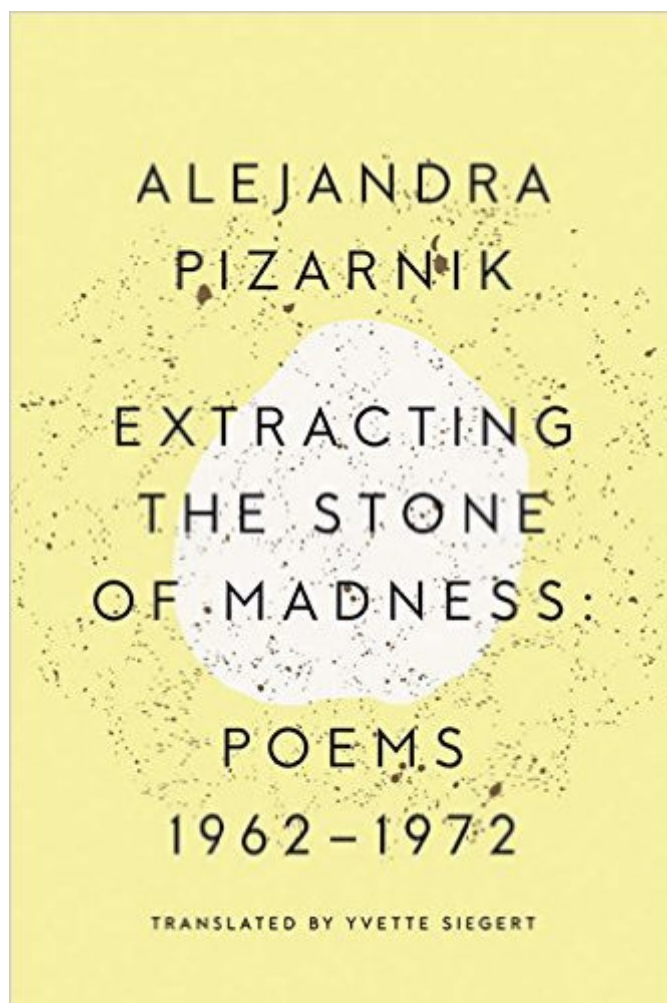


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Extracting The Stone Of Madness: Poems 1962 - 1972



Synopsis

The first full-length collection in English by one of Latin America's most significant twentieth-century poets. Revered by the likes of Octavio Paz and Roberto Bolano, Alejandra Pizarnik is still a hidden treasure in the U.S. *Extracting the Stone of Madness: Poems 1962-1972* comprises all of her middle to late work, as well as a selection of posthumously published verse. Obsessed with themes of solitude, childhood, madness and death, Pizarnik explored the shifting valences of the self and the border between speech and silence. In her own words, she was drawn to "the suffering of Baudelaire, the suicide of Nerval, the premature silence of Rimbaud, the mysterious and fleeting presence of Lautréamont, as well as to the unparalleled intensity of Artaud's metaphysical and moral suffering."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I just received this book a few days ago. In translation, the verse poems and prose poems are very evocative; but sometimes it is hard to tell where they are coming from or where they are going. Pizarnik's poems require careful musing. I obviously need to spend more time with this book. The Spanish originals are included, and the translations follow the Spanish closely. Of course, the usual untranslatable heart of poetry is a problem; but, as far as I can tell, that the translations seem faithful emotionally and aesthetically to the very elusive originals. The book is nicely designed and produced. The reason that I am giving this book four stars instead of five is that there is no introduction and only four pages of notes at the end. Pizarnik is little-known in the English-speaking

world, so an introduction that would place her within her own context seems necessary. There might be a good reason for this absence (there is information about Alejandra Pizarnik available on-line); but, from my point of view, the lack of any substantial supportive text is a missed opportunity.

The LOVE is HUGE! Alejandra Pizarnik will always be close at hand. Some quotes: "If only I could live in a continual state of ecstasy, shaping the body of the poem with my own, rescuing every phrase with my days and weeks, imbuing the poem with my breath while feeding the letters of its every word into the offering in this ceremony of living." "The light of language covers me like music, like a picture ripped to shreds by the dogs of grief. And winter reaches for me like a woman who has fallen in love with a wall." "The night is the color of the eyelids of the dead." "space of disaffection where you don't know what to do with so much lack of want." "And nothing will be yours except a movement toward a where that is whereless." "Behold space trembling like a great madman."

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