



Love Lessons Selected Poems of Alda Merini

Merini, Alda

Princeton University Press,

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Monografía

Alda Merini is one of Italy's most important, and most beloved, living poets. She has won many of the major national literary prizes and has twice been nominated for the Nobel Prize--by the French Academy in 1996 and by Italian PEN in 2001. In *Love Lessons*, the distinguished American poet Susan Stewart brings us the largest and most comprehensive selection of Merini's poetry to appear in English. Complete with the original Italian on facing pages, a critical introduction, and explanatory notes, this collection gathers lyrics, meditations, and aphorisms that span fifty years, from Merini's first books of the 1950s to an unpublished poem from 2001. These accessible and moving poems reflect the experiences of a writer who, after beginning her career at the center of Italian Modernist circles when she was a teenager, went silent in her twenties, spending much of the next two decades in mental hospitals, only to reemerge in the 1970s to a full renewal of her gifts, an outpouring of new work, and great renown. Whether she is working in the briefest, most incisive lyric mode or the complex time schemes of longer meditations, Merini's deep knowledge of classical and Christian myth gives her work a universal, philosophical resonance, revealing what is at heart her tragic sense of life. At the same time, her ironic wit, delight in nature, and affection for her native Milan underlie even her most harrowing poems of suffering. In Stewart's skillful translations readers will discover a true sibyl of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries

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Contenido: From Poetry's Flower -- From the Presence of Orpheus (1953) -- The Presence of Orpheus -- Will I Be Alone? -- From Fear of God (1955) -- Only an Angel's Hand -- Mary of Egypt (Tintoretto) -- Peace -- From Roman Wedding (1955) -- Roman Wedding -- The Pieta -- The Cumaean Sibyl -- When the Anguish -- From You Are Pietro (1961) -- From the First Part -- Peter's Mission -- From the Second Part -- Dream -- Antique Lyric -- And It Would Be Even Easier -- From the Holy Land (1984) -- As for me, I used to be a bird -- Western Ring Road -- The moon unveils itself in the madhouse gardens -- My first mother-theft -- From for Michele Pierri (unpublished until

1991) -- The Song of the Groom -- Elegy -- From the Thieving Magpie: Twenty Portraits (unpublished until 1991) -- Sappho -- Emily Dickinson -- Plath -- Alda Merini -- The Overcoat -- The Apron -- The Guest -- From Ripa's Satires (1983) -- Caesar loved Cleopatra -- From Manganelli's Quagmire or the King's Reign (1992) -- Othello -- From Colossal Inner Loves (1993) -- The Slip -- From Penniless ballads (1995) -- Then I went back to that bright snow -- From the Fox and the Curtain (1997) -- What unbearable chiaroscuro -- From Aphorisms (1997) -- From Superb Is the Night (2000) -- On the pit of an apricot -- The most superb thing is the night -- Night, if it is not swift -- There was a fountain that offered dawns -- Naviglio that succors my flesh -- There are artificial paradises -- Stay steady burning olive tree -- On the Death of My Sister -- Oh song of the snow stuck inside the ditch -- War -- The Raven -- The Cry of Death -- Unpublished (composed 2001) -- In the land of Scotland

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