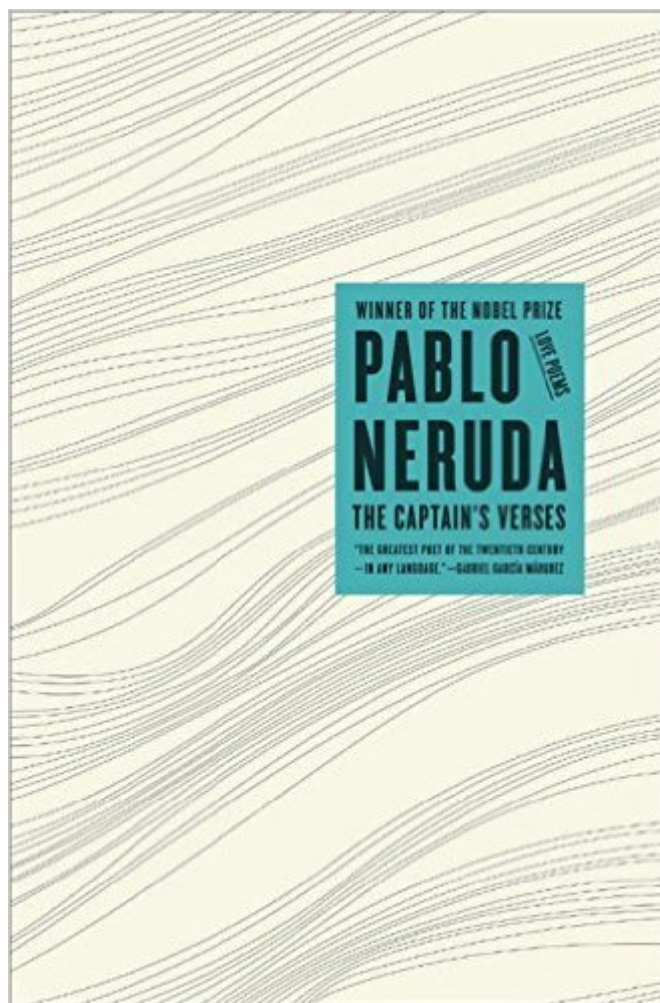


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The Captain's Verses: Love Poems (New Directions Books)



Synopsis

The Nobel Prize winner's classic collection of love poems. Pablo Neruda, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, finished writing *The Captain's Verses* in 1952 while in exile on the island of Capri—the paradisaical setting for the blockbuster film *Il Postino* (The Postman). Surrounded by sea, sun, and Capri's natural splendors, Neruda addressed these poems to his lover Matilde Urrutia before they were married, but didn't publish them publicly until 1963. This complete, bilingual collection has become a classic for love-struck readers around the world—passionately sensuous, and exploding with all the erotic energy of a new love.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (40 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I picked up this book, never having read Neruda before, and expecting quite good poetry. I had to stop reading, after several poems; Pablo Neruda's love poetry was so intensely powerful that it overwhelmed my senses. He wrote brilliantly and passionately of the feelings of his soul, at once enthralling yet brutally candid. You suffered along him, you loved the woman he loved. The verses he wrote express the ineffable and indescribable. And the earthly images he creates are potent, almost too potent. His poetry fills your senses and enwraps your soul

If there ever was a person who could express what your first love felt like, it is Neruda. He uses words to allow feelings and deep emotions to flow from the heart and soul. I was overwhelmed by

the feeling I had when first reading some of the poems. If there ever was a person who spoke from deep within one's self it is Neruda. This is a book you should learn Spanish for, the words are so much more beautiful in his native tongue.

I had heard about Pablo Neruda a few years before and I wasn't too fond of his poetry. When I opened "The Captain's Verses" in a bookstore a few months ago, I knew that I had to have it. Since then this has become my most treasured book of poetry. I don't even know how to describe Pablo Neruda. When you read his poetry you just become entranced by the way he is so accurately able to convey such passion in his simple words and beautiful imagery. Even now after I have read each poem in this book at least a hundred times I am still amazed by the way he does it. I have not yet found another book of poetry that can evoke such feeling as "The Captain's Verses." I believe that this is essential to any poetry lover's collection of poetry and that those who are not big fans of poetry would enjoy the love poems of Pablo Neruda.

This is a fabulous dual-language collection of some of the most sensual, passionate poems written in modern times. Whether he imagines himself as an insect making a journey "from your hips to your feet", traveling to distant places with his beloved by his side, or as a soldier who must leave but whose love will "go on singing until the end of life", Neruda writes with exquisite simplicity, and great beauty. I find this to be the most accessible of Neruda's books that I have read, perhaps because its subject was a central part of his life. As explained in the introduction of the book, these poems are autobiographical, and written about his wife, Matilde Urrutia. First published anonymously in 1952, they were released in 1963 under his own name, but only after much thought, because of their "intimate birth". The translations by Donald D. Walsh are superb. He has captured the fluid rhythm, the emotion, and the fire. He was fortunate to have had this remarkable relationship, as well as the ability to express his feelings with such uncommon depth, but for those men who lack Neruda's poetic genius, and who would like to melt the heart of the woman they love, this might be the perfect gift to go along with that bunch of flowers.

These are tender, evocative, lush poems that would be any woman's saving grace if they were written about her. Every word, carefully chosen, become beacons and messages to those who value eros, as well as agape. What a world of beauty, passion, sensuality, and reverence comes shining through these poems that dance with an inner light, long after the reading is done. I was captivated and engaged, hanging onto every word as if they were silvery moons dangled in front of

me across the black carpet of night sky in that siren's call that love's quest has not passed away from those who honor and acknowledge it. My mind ate up these poems like summer peaches and digested them into my soul. What a different tear arises from the realization of the poet's deep understanding and care for love's fragile existence. Proof that you cannot create art without science, electrons carried me here and carried me away into the splendor of this poetry. The poems' words spread out in my mind like validation that love is the one true thing. I feel a kindred spirit with those who read and appreciated these heartfelt and meaningful poems. Every accolade is deserved for this remarkable collection of love poetry. Five stars are not enough to say thank you for translating these touching poems into English. I was greatly moved in a way that gives me hope for the world.

-- Eve Paludan, romance author

I chatted once with a Latin American President whose favorite poet was Neruda. I told him that I read *Los Versos del Capitan* to my girlfriends. "Ay, si!" he chuckled. "Para enamorarlas." Nothing seals the deal like Neruda in bed.

This is quite possibly the most beautiful book of poetry that I have ever read. An excellent gift to one that you love passionately.

The most amazing and sensitive book that I ever had read about Pablo Neruda. Pablo es capaz de modelar como nadie las imagenes y meterle en un libro tan hermoso y poderoso. "La muerte" es un claro ejemplo de la belleza y la fuerza de su poesía.

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