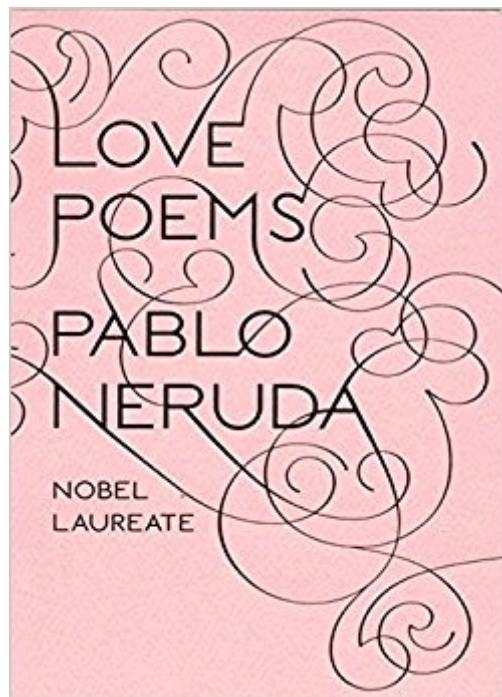


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# Love Poems (New Directions Paperback)



## Synopsis

Sensual, earthy love poems that formed the basis for the popular movie *Il Postino*, now in a beautiful gift book perfect for weddings, Valentine's Day, anniversaries, or just to say "I love you!" Charged with sensuality and passion, Pablo Neruda's love poems are the most celebrated of the Nobel Prize winner's oeuvre, captivating readers with earthbound images and reveling in a fiery re-imagining of the world. Mostly written on the island paradise of Capri (the idyllic setting of the Oscar-winning movie *Il Postino*), *Love Poems* embraces the seascapes surrounding the poet and his love Matilde Urrutia, their waves and shores saturated with a new, yearning eroticism. And when you appear all the rivers sound in my body, bells shake the sky, and a hymn fills the world. © 1973 by Neruda & Walsh

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (68 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

James Laughlin must be turning in his grave. New Directions, one of the greatest presses in 20th Century literary history, has sunk to the wrong directions now in the 21st: they are letting marketing triumph over literary ethics and literature itself. Neruda never wrote a book named "Love Poems", but as a slick marketing trick they've actually had the gall to rename the title of the book from its original, The Captain's Verses: Love Poems (New Directions Books)--which they themselves still publish! But I guess that doesn't sell as easily on Valentine's Day. Yes, it has all the same poems of the original and the book, itself, is (in my opinion) to some degrees a good, though small book,

important in Neruda's oeuvre but honestly only containing a handful of poems that are on the scale of his other great poems, and it is well translated. But to be so deceptive and re-title it as a marketing gimmick? They simply don't have the right to change the title. It's unethical. I'm writing this because I feel this is a literary crime, and to stress that if one wants to have the actual poems included in this book, buy them--from the same publisher--under it's real title, *The Captain's Verses*, the one Neruda titled. I returned this book to after I found out what was underneath the false cover. New Directions says in this book that "in later editions, these verses became the most celebrated of the Noble Prize winner's oeuvre" In later editions? Neruda didn't write more than one edition, and ND again plays tricks saying that it "collects Neruda's most passionate verses." It collects some of them, but with *The Captain's Verses* there's a bunch of mediocre poems. Neruda had a high batting average, but not every poem he wrote was outstanding, and it wasn't all that great on this book. Frankly, I'm peeved at ND for this gimmickry. The great press under Laughlin that took risks and brought us William Carlos Williams, Herman Hesse's *Siddhartha*, and Lawrence Ferlinghetti-- you want a vanguard press that would never succumb to commercialism over the inherent principles of literature-- Ferlinghetti's *City Lights*-- If you want Neruda's love poetry, check out Ferlinghetti's *The Essential Neruda: Selected Poems*-- it truly is the essence of Pablo, with some of his best love poems. *Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair: Dual Language Edition* (Penguin Classics) is of course one of poetry's great classics, but it only represents the voice of Neruda in his twenties, without the broad scope and some of his best love lyrics throughout one of the most prolific careers in the history of modern poetry. *100 Love Sonnets: Cien sonetos de amor* (Texas Pan American Series) has some great Neruda love poems, but the majority, truly, aren't so great. And personally, along with others I feel that much of the inherent power of Neruda's poems in this book are lost in the flat translations of this edition. Again, if you do want *The Captain's Verses*, show New Directions that you can't judge--or change, for marketing reasons--a book by its cover, and get the original, *The Captain's Verses*

"I wheeled with the stars, my heart broke loose on the wind." I do not know much about Pablo Neruda's politics but I do know he wrote some of the best love poems I've ever read. Only two of the poems in this book border on the erotic. I'd even say one of the poems borders on horror. The mermaid poem is sad but a total fantasy. Pablo Neruda was a hopeless romantic so in this book 6 out of 10 poems are love poems. I like that they included the poem with this line: "Love is short, forgetting is so long." This book also contains a very long poem about fisherman and the sea. It seems to speak of a concern for humanity's well being. So there are only 10 poems in this very

small book. Also the cover on my book is much different than what is shown. It is actually a better cover.~The Rebecca Review

I bought this book because I'm learning Spanish (or trying to), and the dual language feature is very appealing. I do recommend it highly as a language study aid. The poems are not hard to follow, and the flow of language is exquisitely beautiful, a real incentive to learn Spanish! I have my tutor recite these poems to give me a sense of the cadence of the language. This is my first experience of Pablo Neruda, and I'm an instant fan. Normally my taste runs more to prose than to poetry. But I love the quirky quality of the poet's mind. He writes a poem to his lover's feet, for example. Everything he writes is unexpected. There are none of the usual love cliches, no gushing. Neruda's emotions are wonderfully idiosyncratic, somehow unsentimental and quite exhilarating. Some of the poems are short and very accessible. Others are longer, bordering on surreal, full of bizarre imagery. All are as passionate as you'd expect from a Latin lover. The translation seems excellent to me, in both word choice and feeling very close to the original.

I love that this book includes the original Spanish as well as the English translation on pages opposite each other. The book itself is very attractive, and a nice small size which is just right to keep in a purse or take on a trip. Could make a nice gift for a Spanish student, or for anyone overly romantic. The poems are quite passionate and evocative.

This is a nice little volume of some of Neruda's love poetry. Don't buy it for your girlfriend, it is very elliptical and metaphoric and you will have much better texts listening to Spanish pop music. If you like Neruda's revolutionary writings, you will grow impatient with this little book -- he is SO much more passionate when he is writing about his country!

The current top review for this book points out that this may not be the best edition to buy. When it comes to the definitive version of the poems, with the title and order preferred by Neruda, I can't argue with his expertise. I will say, however, that this is a beautiful book. It's pocket-sized and the cover is very pretty. Overall, the design is of very high quality and this book would make a perfect romantic gift. The poems themselves are wonderful -- they cover the total roller coaster of love and desire.

Alright, alright, I fell into the Valentine's Day trap and bought the pink book of repackaged

poems. I don't regret it. What a great selection of powerful, focused work. Neruda writes really beautiful, intimate poetry and you will enjoy this little book.

I found this little gem in a bookstore, a feature for Valentines Day. This is a perfect gift book or a book if you want an introduction to Neruda or to savor remembered poems. Because it is so small, it's perfect for keeping by your bedside or carrying in your pocket or purse. The poems are translated in Spanish as well, so that you have "En Ti La Tierra" on one page and next to it "In You the Earth." The poems by this Nobel Prize winner are so beautiful ("living poetry") that even if you read them all by yourself, you will feel loved and loving.

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