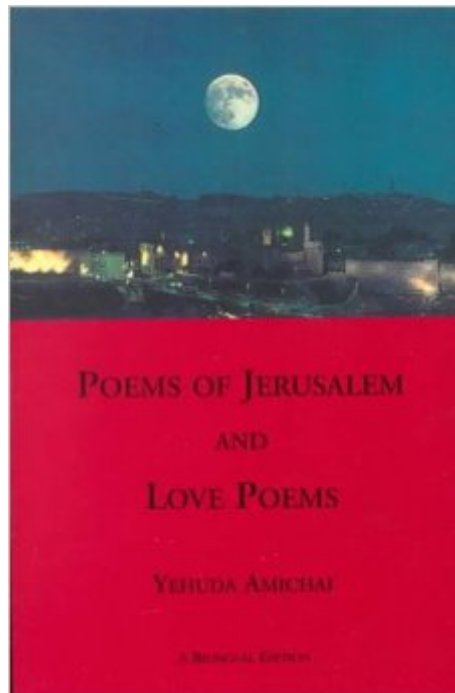


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Poems Of Jerusalem And Love Poems (Sheep Meadow Poetry)



Synopsis

This volume of work by the Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai contains two of his collections in full. This is a bilingual edition with English translations alongside the Hebrew originals.

Book Information

Series: Sheep Meadow Poetry

Paperback: 277 pages

Publisher: Sheep Meadow; Bilingual Hebrew-English ed. edition (December 1, 1992)

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Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (13 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Yehuda Amichai is often referred to as the most quoted Hebrew poet since King David. He is known as one of the great poets of love and war. His poems, in Hebrew, have been translated into more than 40 languages. 1982, Amichai was the recipient of the prestigious Israel Prize for Poetry for effecting a revolutionary change in poetry's language. Among his many other honors and awards, he was nominated for the Noble Prize. I found his work to be accessible and highly imaginative. While this book is divided into two distinct sections " Poems of Jerusalem and Love Poems " it is at times, difficult to see them as separate entities. His Poems of Jerusalem read like love songs, lamentations, and sorrow for what war has wrought. The Love Poems reflect his history and grounding in Israel with the steady biblical allusions. His Love Poems are strong and painful, harsh, unforgiving. Yet they are also so soft, like sinking into pillows filled with down. They are tender and ethereal. "We did not stay long enough together/to erect for ourselves a lovers' monument." And the sweet yearning memories are made complete with an underpinning of the joy of having love, still, or at one time. Without regret. I find this dichotomy makes the love poems rise up out of the desert, shed sand like old skin, and hark of something gained, always gained and never lost from having love. Amichai gives attention to causative role of political and social forces in

his work. This is especially evident in the Poems of Jerusalem section of the book. Indeed, Amichai himself refers to all poetry as political (Paris Review). His Jerusalem poems are alive with history, loss, sorrow, regret. He makes the effects of war visceral. In "Suicide Attempts of Jerusalem" the entire piece is a stoic dirge. "Tears, here, don't soften/ the eyes."

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