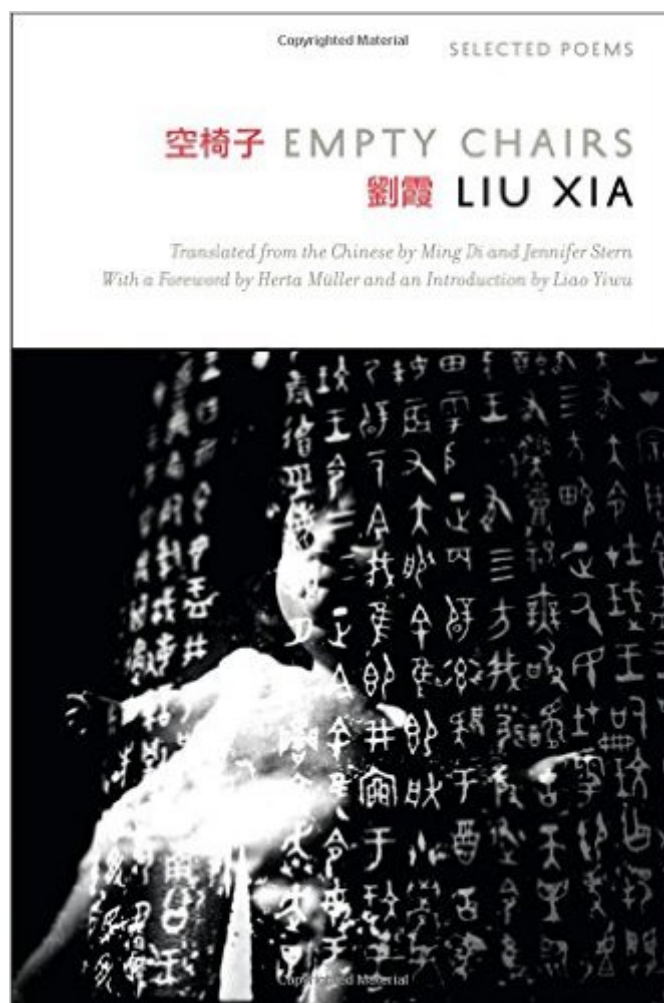


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Empty Chairs: Selected Poems (Lannan Translation)



Synopsis

The first publication of the poetry of Liu Xia, wife of the imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize recipient Liu Xiaobo didn't have a chance to say a word before you became a character in the news, everyone looking up to you as I was worn down at the edge of the crowd just smoking and watching the sky. A new myth, maybe, was forming there, but the sun was so bright I couldn't see it. — from "June 2nd, 1989 (for Xiaobo)"

Empty Chairs presents the poetry of Liu Xia for the first time freely in both English translation and in the Chinese original. Selected from thirty years of her work, and including some of her haunting photography, this book creates a portrait of a life lived under duress, a voice in danger of being silenced, and a spirit that is shaken but so far indomitable. Liu Xia's poems are potent, acute moments of inquiry that peel back to expose the fraught complexity of an interior world. They are felt and insightful, colored through with political constraints even as they seep beyond those constraints and toward love.

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