

Nicaraguan Peasant Poetry from Solentiname

From Brand: West End Press

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These poems were collected and edited at Solentiname in Nicaragua in 1977 by the Venezuelan poet and workshop originator Mayra Jimenez.

The Solentiname colony was established on an island at the southern end of Lake Nicaragua in 1965. Father Ernesto Cardenal lived there for 12 years celebrating the Mass, teaching the Gospel, and encouraging the islanders to create paintings and poetry. Then came the Sandinista revolution, in which Father Cardenal participated. The poems written by the children and adults of Solentiname were saved, collected, and finally published in Managua in 1980.

Father Ernesto Cardenal decided in the middle 1970s that revolution in Nicaragua could not be peacefully achieved. As a result, he occupied a difficult vocation, as priest, poet, and revolutionary. Eventually, with the success of the revolution, he was appointed Minister of Culture in 1979.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
In 1977, a series of writing pk workshops taught by a priest and a poet gave rise to a budding group of poets and political activists among the peasants of Solentiname, Nicaragua. Most participated in the struggle to overthrow the dictator Somoza; some died, others went into exile, continuing to write. First published in Managua in 1980, this valuable, moving, albeit polemical anthology presents a sampling of the work of 22 men, women and children, charting their evolving political and stylistic sophistication. The early poems focus primarily on romance and nature, depicting wildlife and domestic experience in beautiful and haunting imagery. The later works enter the political arena, describing the rebellion and the deaths of friends, and chronicling a growing awareness of inadequate education, poverty, injustice and oppression. Seven-year-old Juan Agudelo writes: "Poetry is born in a sacuanjoche blossom / in which red butterflies suck nectar. / Poetry is what two lovers / say to one another. / Poetry is more delicate than the reflection of the moon in the lake. / A perfect poem is like the Revolution." Gullette's skillful translations face the original poems, and his insightful introduction provides history of the area and brief biographies of the contributors.
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Review
The Clouds *by Irene Agudelo*
The Little Chocoyo *by Irene Agudelo*
The Malinche *by Juan Agudelo*
The Poem *by Juan Agudelo*
The Revolution Is *by Juan Agudelo*
This Poem Is For The Swallows On A Very Sad Winter Day *by Juan Agudelo*
I Remember That Dawn *by Nubia Arcia*
It's A Beautiful Afternoon *by Nubia Arcia*
Letter *by Nubia Arcia*
Seated In The Garden *by Nubia Arcia*
With My Hair Loose *by Nubia Arcia*
The River That Rises In My Bones *by Jean Berrett*
The Anahingas *by Bosco Centeno*
Brother Guardsman, Forgive Me *by Bosco Centeno*
An Egret *by Bosco Centeno*
The Egrets *by Bosco Centeno*
Everything Will Be Different *by Bosco Centeno*
Exile *by Bosco Centeno*
February Squalls *by Bosco Centeno*
For Chicha (tony) Fallen In Nueva Guinea *by Bosco Centeno*
The Garrobo *by Bosco Centeno*
Hiding Ourselves In The Night *by Bosco Centeno*
I Remember, Girl *by Bosco Centeno*
I'm Not Going To Tell You *by Bosco Centeno*
If You Wanted Me *by Bosco Centeno*
In The Bus *by Bosco Centeno*
Just As A Tapir *by Bosco Centeno*
Like The Quick Leap Of The Tarpon *by Bosco Centeno*

Lines Written On A Baseball *by Bosco Centeno*
Little Heartbreaker *by Bosco Centeno*
Memories Of You *by Bosco Centeno*
The Oropendola *by Bosco Centeno*
Remember *by Bosco Centeno*
River Girl *by Bosco Centeno*
The Senzontle *by Bosco Centeno*
Solentiname *by Bosco Centeno*
Sweaty And Muddy *by Bosco Centeno*
This Moon Half-hidden *by Bosco Centeno*
To My Wife, Esperanza *by Bosco Centeno*
Tyrant, Fear The Poets *by Bosco Centeno*
We'll Be Able *by Bosco Centeno*
When The Energy Of Our Love Is Released *by Bosco Centeno*
You Chat, You Sweep, You Tidy Up *by Bosco Centeno*
You Were Born To Be A Poet's Sweetheart *by Bosco Centeno*
You *by Bosco Centeno*
The Birds Sing *by Eddy Chavarria*
The Fisherman *by Eddy Chavarria*
The Garrobos *by Eddy Chavarria*
In Every Hollow *by Eddy Chavarria*
It's Summer *by Eddy Chavarria*
The Moon Has Already Set *by Eddy Chavarria*
Seated In The Doorway *by Eddy Chavarria*
When The Trees Begin To Drop Their Leaves *by Eddy Chavarria*
Winter *by Eddy Chavarria*
At Night *by Elvis Chavarria*
Fishing *by Elvis Chavarria*
The Foam *by Elvis Chavarria*
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Katydids, Guises, Kestrels *by Elvis Chavarria*
Late Afternoon In Solentiname *by Elvis Chavarria*
Love In The Countryside *by Elvis Chavarria*
Night *by Elvis Chavarria*
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Solitude *by Elvis Chavarria*
Summer *by Elvis Chavarria*
They Carried The Wounded Campesino *by Elvis Chavarria*
Winter *by Elvis Chavarria*
You're Far From Solentiname *by Elvis Chavarria*
Campesinos *by Jonny Chavarria*
Happy *by Jonny Chavarria*
The Letter *by Julia Chavarria*
The Chocoyo *by Mauricio Chavarria*
I Saw A Turtle In The Lake *by Mauricio Chavarria*
The Egrets *by Alejandro Guevara*
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Bitterness *by Donald Guevara*
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You Can Hear Speeches Like This *by Ivan Guevara*
After The Battle *by Myriam Guevara*
All Morning It Has Rained *by Myriam Guevara*
February Afternoon *by Myriam Guevara*
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On The Bus *by Myriam Guevara*
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By Firelight *by William Guevara*
Fish *by William Guevara*

Moonlit Night *by William Guevara*
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Foggy Mountain *by Pedro Pablo Meneses*
Guerrilla Reconnaissance *by Pedro Pablo Meneses*
In Nicaragua The Great Assault *by Pedro Pablo Meneses*
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Ripe Mangos *by Pedro Pablo Meneses*
San Miguel *by Pedro Pablo Meneses*
Your Long Hair *by Pedro Pablo Meneses*
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Your Indifference Bugs Me More *by Felipe Pena*
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The Curlew *by Natalia Sequeira*
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It Was A Night Of Torment *by Natalia Sequeira*

The Night Black *by Natalia Sequeira*
When The Summer Moons Grow Bright *by Natalia Sequeira*
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Archipelago Of Green Islands *by Olivia Silva*
At The Time Of The Assault On The San Carlos Garrison *by Olivia Silva*
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To My Four Sons Up In The Mountains *by Olivia Silva*
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Language Notes
Text: English, Spanish (translation)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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