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FOR FAVOUR OF REVIEW / NOTICE



Title: Black Holes Within Us

By: Marta Markoska

Language: English (Translation from Macedonian)

Translator: Aleksandra Spaseska

Advance comments by: Elbert Siu Ping Lee, Hayley Ann Solomon,
Biljana Perchinkova, Ivan Dzeperoski.

Genre: Single-author poetry collection

Edition: First monolingual English-language edition

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Key words: romance, erotic, poetry, woman poet, feminist

BIC Code: DCF

BISAC Category: Poetry / General; Women authors

“If you want to read Marta’s whole story, also read or buy her book, *H/ERO/T/IC BOOK*.”

ABOUT THE BOOK

In her metaphysical poetry collection, *Black Holes Within Us*, Marta Markoska calls the universe into play, as both the context for her love and as providing a means for its expression. Her poems are full of ordinary details from everyday modern living, but are paradoxically pervaded with classical, philosophical and scientific allusions. They contain interesting and perceptive ideas – for example, about the self, the continuous skirmishes between the sexes on topics as various as the day’s meals and sexual fulfilment -- expressed in simple words and images, and are, at different levels, accessible to all.

OR

Love poems full of familiar details from everyday modern living, paradoxically pervaded with classical, philosophical and scientific allusions. They are expressed in simple words and images, and are, at different levels, accessible to all. Translation by Aleksandra Spaseska from Macedonian.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Macedonian writer, Marta Markoska, was born in Skopje, R. Macedonia, in 1981. She has a background in General and Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies, and is published in these areas. She is also known as an award-winning poet and an award-winning short story writer. Markoska is also well-known to audiences from her project, *Marta’s Palace*, and from “The Campaign to show the Beauty of a Woman After Breast Cancer”, which she launched at the same time as the first monolingual English-language edition of her *H/ERO/T/IC BOOK*, also published by Proverse Hong Kong.



SOME COMMENTS

Markoska's *Black holes within us* syphons ironies, distilling them into a cauldron of quite merciless clarity. There is a morass of emotion, here – passive aggression, challenge, defiance, feminism, resignation and regret.

She deals in contrasts – droplets of ideas that are fermented into frequent antithesis.

When I was only fifteen, I longed for you to hold me for hours; now you hold me for hours and I long to be fifteen again.

We used to spend hours talking – now we spend hours – in silence.

If you appreciate the constructs of mathematics, astronomy and physics, there are allusions enough to satisfy. If you enjoy the whimsical, there is that, too – *if we were thinkers on some other planet and we ate breadsticks that finish the straight line of our lives* – mostly, though, there is a hard look at reality, dreams and their dissonance.

A poignant piecing together of simile, irony and hypothetical equation to create a thoroughly thought-provoking read.

—Hayley Ann Solomon, Author of *Celestial Promise* and writer of Prize-winning poems in successive annual competitions for the International Proverse Poetry Prize.

“The poetry of Marta Markoska is bleak but enlightening. Each poem forces us to think about matters that are unthinkable – aiming to destroy our favourite beliefs and wishes. What is true, what is good, and what is beautiful to us are, in her poems, almost always certainly not what they seem. Yet, in a strange sort of way, the poet concludes her vision in her opening quotation, ‘We should leave truth to the Gods.’ ... the urban rebel stands side by side with an unarticulated form of mysticism – we are all just playing here.”

—**Elbert Siu Ping Lee**, author of *Rain on the Pacific Coast* (Proverse Hong Kong, 2013)

“The salty-sweet poetic pieces which Markoska serves us, giving insight into her own poetic image of the salty-sweet universe of love, is more than a successful poetic guide through her own galaxy of poetry. This book of poetry is also a subtle poetic plunge into the “black holes within us”, which every honest reader finds not only in Markoska’s poetry, but also deep within themselves.”

—**Ivan Dzeperoski**

“*Black Holes Within Us* ... is the result of a deeply mature search by an individual who seeks nothing more than the purest essence of its being.”— **Biljana Perchinkova**

DISTRIBUTION

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