Dictionary of Midnight

by Abdulla Pashew

translated from the Kurdish by Alana Marie Levinson-Labrosse

$22

Poetry

Paperback

Dictionary of Midnight collects almost 50 years of poetry by Abdulla Pasheh, the most influential Kurdish poet alive today. Pasheh’s poems chart a personal cartography of exile, recounting the recent political history of Kurdistan and its struggle for independence. Poet-translator Alana Marie Levinson-LaBrosse worked with the poet to select and translate his most iconic poems, balancing well-known, politically engaged contemporary Kurdish classics like “12 Lessons for Children” with the concise love lyrics that have always punctuated his work.

When he gives readings in Kurdistan, Abdulla Pasheh draws audiences in the thousands. In addition to his eight volumes of poetry, Pasheh is a prolific translator, fluent in Russian and English, responsible for bringing Whitman and Pushkin to Kurdish readership. He holds a master’s degree in pedagogy and a doctorate in philology. Dictionary of Midnight is the first book-length selection of his poetry to appear in English.

Alana Marie Levinson-LaBrosse is a poet, translator, and co-director of Kashkul, a research, translation, and arts collaborative. She has lived and worked in Iraq since 2011, during which time she has dedicated herself to bringing Kurdish poets to English-speaking audiences, including Kajal Ahmad’s Handful of...

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