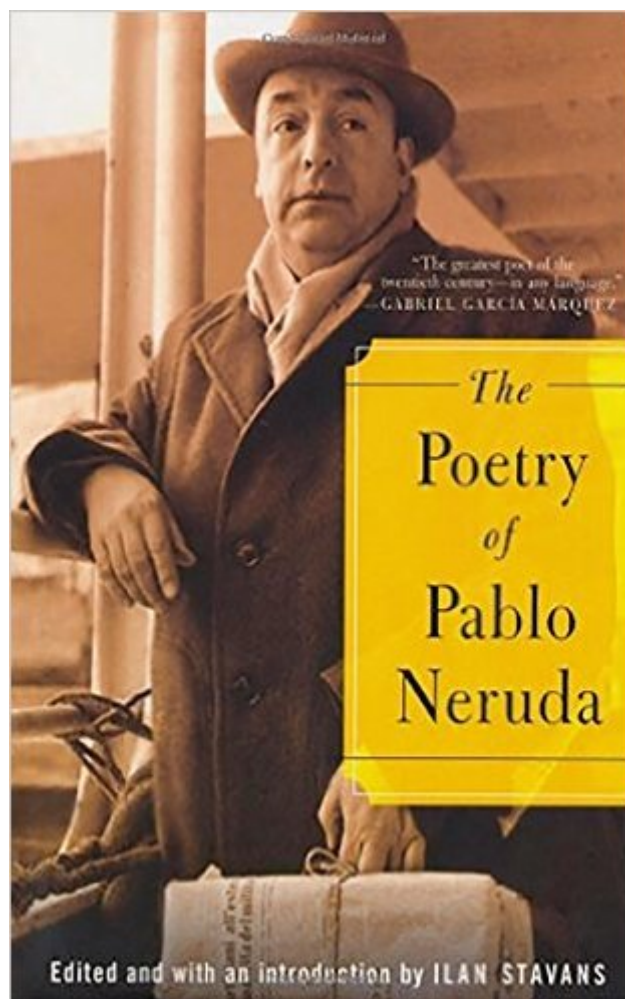


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# The Poetry Of Pablo Neruda



## Synopsis

The most comprehensive English-language collection of work ever by "the greatest poet of the twentieth century--in any language" (Gabriel García Márquez) "In his work a continent awakens to consciousness." So wrote the Swedish Academy in awarding the Nobel Prize to Pablo Neruda, the author of more than thirty-five books of poetry and one of Latin America's most revered writers, lionized during his lifetime as "the people's poet." This selection of Neruda's poetry, the most comprehensive single volume available in English, presents nearly six hundred poems, scores of them in new and sometimes multiple translations, and many accompanied by the Spanish original. In his introduction, Ilan Stavans situates Neruda in his native milieu as well as in a contemporary English-language one, and a group of new translations by leading poets testifies to Neruda's enduring, vibrant legacy among English-speaking writers and readers today.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I was very excited for this book, hoping to fill in gaps of my Neruda collection. but after reading it I was frustrated and disappointed, not only in the quality of many of the translations and the lack of the Spanish there next to the English, but I feel the editor left out many important poems while putting in a lot of Neruda's weaker work. It was clunky. I found a review in the New York Book Review on the web by the poet Charles Simic which explains my thoughts perfectly: "As one would expect from an undertaking aiming to be so comprehensive in scope, The Poetry of Pablo Neruda is an uneven book. There are first-rate translations by John Felstiner, Margaret Sayers Peden, Jack Schmitt, Greg Simon, Alastair Reid and a dozen others alongside many mediocre ones. I'm not competent to judge the accuracy of individual translations, but I can compare their quality as poems

since there are previous renderings of the same poems which seem to me far superior to the ones we have here. For instance, neither of the two versions of "Walking Around" in this book are as good as the one I quoted by H.R. Hays, or the one W.S. Merwin did years ago. As their worst, the translations do not convey the stylistic range and verbal integrity of the original, making Neruda sound instead like a Chilean Carl Sandburg. The choice of poems is also at times debatable. In order to make the book representative of all of Neruda's work, Stavans has left out some well-known poems and included plenty of questionable ones..."A missed opportunity. Una lastima.

While a beautiful anthology, I was very disappointed to find that it is not a complete bilingual edition. There is a sampling of \*some\* of the original poems in Spanish, but if you are looking for a side-by-side reading this is not it. In all fairness, Ilan Stavans presents a formidable compilation of Neruda's poems, and several translations of one poem are included for comparison (demonstrating the art of translation), but if you are looking for Neruda's poems in the original Spanish look elsewhere.

I was incredibly excited to get a hardcover of this at a thrift store, in nearly brand new condition, for fifty cents. Why someone threw it away I have no idea. And while it's a large selection and for the most part is very good, it has some issues, first and foremost, inconsistency in translations. Since the book has dozens of translators throughout, it's going to be hit and miss. Fortunately, it's mostly hit, but I was sad to see that "Ode to Enchanted Light," one of my favorite Neruda poems, was butchered in the translation. There are a few other duds throughout, translators who knew nothing of Neruda or his flow. Some people have complained that it isn't side by side bilingual, but this isn't too much of a problem for me. While it would be nice, it would also cause the book to be over 2,000 pages, and it's already huge. My final thought is that while it's not perfect, it's a good book. I certainly wouldn't pay \$40 for it (the hardback cover price), but buying a paperback or a used hardback would be a good move for lovers of Neruda.

This has a vast amount of his work. The book is quick thick and has his writing in both Spanish and English. In either language the words create a nice rhythm. Not only is this a must for Neruda fans but for anyone looking to have a great time reading amazing poetry.

If you love Pablo Neruda or are a fan of amazing, passionate poetry, you'll love this book. It gets 4 stars because some of my favorites are not in this book. This book includes both the original

Spanish poems as well as the English translations for each.

Pablo Neruda is great. I love all of his work. This collection is a smaller collection than some of my other books of his work but my favorites are all included. Would recommend this to any poetry lover.

I've been wanting a complete works, but I wish all of them had the original Spanish and then a translation. I don't like that some poems only have the translation. But still an excellent book for any Neruda fan!

This collection of Pablo Neruda is a very thorough collection of his work. It is also broken down into subject matter, which makes the book accessible for easy reading. Not to mention, the author is absolutely brilliant and one of the greatest poets in recent history.

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