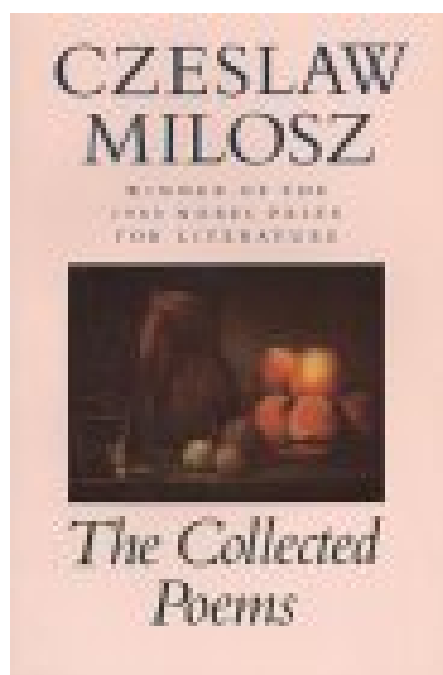




Collected Poems

Czesław Miłosz

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To find my home in one sentence, concise, as if hammered in metal. No to enchant anybody.
Not to earn a lasting name in posterity. An unnamed need for order, for rhythm, for form,
which three words are opposed to chaos and nothingness.
-- Czesław Miłosz

Collected Poems Details

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From Reader Review Collected Poems for online ebook

Kate says

a smattering, a collection of someones favourites.

Abby says

ON PRAYER

You ask me how to pray to someone who is not.
All I know is that prayer constructs a velvet bridge
And walking it we are aloft, as on a springboard,
Above landscapes the color of ripe gold
Transformed by a magic stopping of the sun.
That bridge leads to the shore of Reversal
Where everything is just the opposite and the word *is*
Unveils a meaning we hardly envisioned.
Notice: I say *we*; there, every one, separately,
Feels compassion for others entangled in the flesh
And knows that if there is no other shore
We will walk that aerial bridge all the same.

Tracy O says

His poems are wonderful, but I like his shorter poems better. I like this book so much more than any of his individual books - you can pick out all of the good stuff.

David says

Milosz is one of my favorite poets. It's hard for American poets to find the 'we' -- the place where we can speak about more than just our own lives. Milosz gets there, and he speaks with such power and grace.

Kevin Fink says

I am reduced to tears, and I am floored, and I am reborn. If my poetry is half this moving, if it contains an iota of this emotional journey, then all will not be wasted.

"There is no one between you and me.

Neither a plant drawing sap from the depths of the earth
nor an animal, nor a man,

nor wind walking between the clouds." - Hymn, Czeslaw Milosz

Evelyn says

I couldn't quite get through the whole book. There are some really universal and beautiful poems, but, like many academic poets, Milosz goes too far into mythology, losing the "common folk" along the way.

Great book if you're erudite.

Eric says

Absolutely gorgeous and profound.

Grazyna Nawrocka says

I didn't like this book that much. I'd consider it to be mostly poetic prose. It was fascinating to explore author's feelings, and the time of his youth. The writings were bringing to my mind very vivid images. It was like watching a set of paintings. I really enjoyed only three of his poems: "Ode to a Bird," "A Boy," and "Paradise." Perhaps I should have read this book in Polish

Laurel says

I've been rereading these poems. My favorite is "Love".

Andrea says

Two poems from this collection I especially return to again and again: "Lecture IV" and "A Poetic State."

Gavin says

Bought it for someone else, but couldn't give it away. Does much that I usually don't appreciate – both Holocaust musing *and* the relative innocence of nature. But his indirectness and attentiveness lift it way, way beyond the ordinary run of those themes. Never mawkish. Epochal.

Here, Here, Here, Here, Here, Here.

James says

The Bird Kingdom

Flying high the heavy wood grouse
Slash the forest sky with their wings
And a pigeon returns to its airy wilderness
And a raven gleams with airplane steel.

What is the earth for them? A lake of darkness.
It has been swallowed by the night forever.
They, above the dark as above black waves,
Have their homes and islands, saved by the light.

If they groom their long feathers with their beaks
And drop one of them, it floats a long time
Before it reaches the bottom of the lake
And brushes someone's face, bringing news
From a world that is bright, beautiful, warm, and free.

James says

A clear, unique and evocative voice, even in translation. A world-historical figure.

Charity Yost Reed says

A friend gave me this collection, and I read approximately a poem a day for four years. It was a deep process because Milosz is so thought-provoking. Sometimes I felt as he expressed in "A Mirrored Gallery," "The bright side of the planet moves toward darkness/And the cities are falling asleep, each in its hour,/And for me, now as then, it is too much./There is too much world" (360). He seemed to express his wisdom so succinctly. One of my favorite examples of this was, "When people cease to believe that there is good and evil,/ Only beauty will call to them and save them/So that they may know how to say: this is true and that is false" (408). I copied about a dozen poems from this collection into my favorite poems notebook, including, "Encounter," "In Milan," "It Was Winter," and a gorgeous trilogy with the titles, "Faith," "Hope," and "Love." I'm grateful to my friend that this is in my collection to reference over and over now.

Charles Peter says

A great book of poems has kept me going, engrossed me, grew me, and I was so uplifted by this collection of poetry, that it got me writing again, it got me exited and moving on with my life. A great read.
