



## Poems

*Rainer Maria Rilke*

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## **Poems** Rainer Maria Rilke

This compilation includes the poems of Bohemian-Austrian novelist and poet, Rainer Maria Rilke. Included in this collection is: "First Poems", "The Book of Pictures", "New Poems", and "The Book of Hours: The Book of a Monk's Life",.

## **Poems Details**

Date : Published February 7th 2014 by Start Classics (first published September 7th 1986)

ISBN :

Author : Rainer Maria Rilke

Format : Kindle Edition 42 pages

Genre : Poetry, Classics, Fiction, European Literature, German Literature, Anthologies



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## Solveig says

Not quite what I expected. There were a few poems which I thought were wonderful, but in a few cases the translation seemed to be the problem - where words had been more or less created (although still quite understandable). For my petty brain it was too much, and while I certainly intend to buy a copy of Letters to a young poet, I will not be keeping this book. (alas).

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## Wila Kengah says

3.95, actually

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## Markus says

My favorit poet, together with Emily Dickinson. I am tempted to compare Rilkes poetry with Chopins music. Timeless, light, happy, romantic.  
My book is full with post- its, marking poems that I like to re-read.

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## Matty-Swytla says

I'm not a great reader of poetry, but reading challenges have me listen to one or two collections a year, so not all is lost in this regard. I'm drawn to the classics since the likelihood of enjoying the poems rises considerably, and this is true for this collection, no mistake.

I like the quiet contemplative tone of Rilke's poetry, maybe because I get tired by too loud, overblown or too depressed tones of some poets. I also don't care that much about the clever types that enjoy twisting rhymes and alliterations everywhere - it's the content and emotional familiarity I seek in poetry. Rilke is definitely a poet I'll return to. I like the attention he pays to nature and small details. His themes are varied, so there's always something new to delight in. I also found that he fits my mood during long rainy days to a T.

Go and listen to it on Librivox, the version read by Peter Tucker is excellent:  
Rainer Maria Rilke: Poems

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## Natalie says

Just a few examples...

*I scent the oncoming winds and must bend with them,  
While the things beneath are not yet stirring,...*

*Then I feel the storm and am vibrant like the sea  
And expand and withdraw into myself  
And thrust myself forth and am alone in the great storm.*

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*THE ANGELS* (This is one of my favorite poems)

*They all have tired mouths  
And luminous, illimitable souls;  
And a longing (as if for sin)  
Trembles at times through their dreams...*

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### *SONG OF THE STATUE*

*Who so loveth me that he  
Will give his precious life for me?  
I shall be set free from the stone  
If some one drowns for me in the sea,  
I shall have life, life of my own -  
For life I ache.*

*I long for the singing blood,  
The stone is so still and cold.  
I dream of life, life is good.  
Will no one love me and be bold  
And me awake?*

*I weep and weep alone,  
Weep always for my stone.  
What joy is blood to me  
If it ripens like red wine?  
It cannot call back from the sea  
The life that was given for mine,  
Given for Love's sake.*

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### *DEATH*

*Before us great Death stands  
Our fate held close within his quiet hands.  
When with proud joy we lift Life's red wine  
To drink deep of the mystic shining cup  
And ecstasy through all our being leaps -  
Death bows his head and weeps.*

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*I love my life's darkest hours  
In which my senses quicken and grow deep*  
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I really enjoy Rainer Maria Rilke. There's a gentleness to his poems that soothes my soul.

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### **Seraphim V Molina says**

**Tightly tailored the bulges show...**

**Tightly tailored the bulges show...**

The translation of the poems is respectful of the rhythm and rhyme in which they were written in German, a fidelity in form that sometimes shatters the power and beauty of the lines...I find it equally disconcerting that the longer poems, are not broken into their conventional stanzas but presented as one long poem, e.g. Book of Hours. Maybe I'm just too inured to reading Rilke's poems in free-verse translations

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### **Michael says**

This is sort of an unusual item: a small book of German poetry with extensive editorial comments and notes in English. Depending on your reading ability in either language, this could be a good or a bad thing. I would say that it is probably most useful for reasonably advanced students of German with some interest in either Rilke or German poetry in general, who wish a basic introduction to his work.

Rilke is probably one of the least translatable of poets, so it is a good thing to see his work in its original language. Themes of the poems range from classical tales of Orpheus and Leda to ordinary objects like a carousel. I particularly enjoy the "dinggedichte" in which he describes some common thing with an artist's view to the essential facts, using words like a paintbrush. The discussion of his work by G.W. McKay is informed and intelligent, but probably debatable in places - it may be better for more advanced students of German literature to read the poems on their own, and form their own ideas. For less advanced students, his comments will sometimes shed light on the more obscure terminology Rilke uses.

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### **Bee Halton says**

If you are interested in the artistic development of Rainer Maria Rilke then this book gives you a competent

guide. The author explains a lot in prose but unfortunately there are not a lot of examples of the poets poems which is a shame.

I am not sure about the quality of the translations: As being German speaking I have been reading Rilke in German for many years. In German his words have a certain melody which I can not find in the translations. But I have also been translating poems from German into English and some things just can not be said in the other language. It seems to me that translating poetry is a lot more difficult than translating prose.

If you want to know about the poet and his development this is a very good book to start with. The chosen poems give a good overview over his work and might give you a taste for more.

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### **Doutor Branco says**

It is a marvelous poetry book. Rilke is doubtless a great poet and artist, deserving all our attention.

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### **Chinook says**

I've read Rilke once before. I can't remember much about the poetry or even if I liked it much. What I remember is that I bought it at Kyobo, a giant chain store with a big English section and that they would stamp the pages with a little bird to indicate you'd purchased it there. And I remember that I read the book, *Letters to a Young Poet*, on the Seoul subway in the summer, because I can still remember the chill of the metal seats from the air conditioning.

This book is an example of why I don't generally read much poetry. The first half is just introduction and it's that kind of talking about poetry that reads to me like complete nonsense. The second half, with Rilke's actual poems, was better but most of it didn't do much of anything for me. I wonder if part of the disconnect is that I have little interest in religion and Rilke clearly did.

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### **Leani says**

I downloaded this Project Gutenberg version to read "The Book of Hours" concurrently with *Das Stunden-Buch*, but it turns out that it contains only extracts from the latter, either freely interpreted or freely rearranged by Jessie Lamont. (At any rate, during my first superficial reading I struggled to trace the verses in the German responsible for the verses in the English.) When I realised that translation was much shorter, I stopped attempting to read them in parallel, and I think Jessie Lamont's translation is excellent in its own right.

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### **Rachel C. says**

This public domain volume is clearly only a very brief introduction to Rilke. It's especially hard to judge poetry from translations but I did like what I read.

## Love Song

When my soul touches yours a great chord sings!  
How shall I tune it then to other things?  
O! That some spot in darkness could be found  
That does not vibrate whene'er your depths sound.  
But everything that touches you and me  
Welds us as played strings sound one melody.  
Where is the instrument whence the sounds flow?  
And whose the master-hand that holds the bow?  
O! Sweet song--

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## Susie says

This was a new poet to me and this sampler is a wonderful introduction of his great poetry.

This translation really captures the lyrical pull of his poems for me. I love his poems with a more religious bend and will be reading more from him...

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## Philip Dodd says

The name Rainer Maria Rilke I have seen mentioned many times, so I thought I would read a book of his poems. I have no idea how well his poems have been translated into English in the book, Poems by Rainer Maria Rilke, but I enjoyed reading them, nonetheless. A collection of fine poems by a man who was clearly spiritually alive, I thought it to be. A good introduction to his works.

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## Sebastian says

My favourite, about a monks relationship to God:  
<http://gutenberg.spiegel.de/buch/das-...>

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