

# Unveiling the Timeless Beauty of Neruda's "Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair"

## POEM XV

I like for you to be still: it is as though you were absent,  
and you hear me from far away and my voice does not touch you.  
It seems as though your eyes had flown away  
and it seems that a kiss had sealed your mouth.

As all things are filled with my soul  
you emerge from the things, filled with my soul.  
You are like my soul, a butterfly of dream,  
and you are like the word Melancholy.

I like for you to be still, and you seem far away.  
It sounds as though you were lamenting, a butterfly cooing like a dove.  
And you hear me from far away, and my voice does not reach you:  
Let me come to be still in your silence.

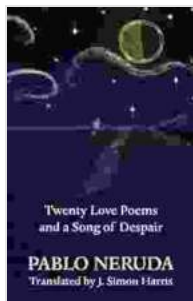
And let me talk to you with your silence  
that is bright as a lamp, simple as a ring.  
You are like the night, with its stillness and constellations.  
Your silence is that of a star, as remote and candid.

I like for you to be still: it is as though you were absent,  
distant and full of sorrow as though you had died.  
One word then, one smile is enough.  
And I am happy, happy that it's not true.

## A Literary Masterpiece

Pablo Neruda's "Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair" is a timeless masterpiece that has captivated readers worldwide for generations. This

collection of evocative verses, published in 1924, paints a vivid and intimate portrait of the complexities of love and loss. Through his lyrical and passionate language, Neruda explores the joys, sorrows, and longing that accompany the human experience.



### **Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair** by J. Simon Harris

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

- Language : English
- File size : 1234 KB
- Text-to-Speech : Enabled
- Screen Reader : Supported
- Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
- Print length : 87 pages
- Lending : Enabled



## **Lyrical Beauty and Evocative Imagery**

Neruda's poetry is renowned for its lyrical beauty and evocative imagery. He paints vivid pictures with words, capturing the essence of love and loss through sensory experiences. In "Poem XI," he describes the beloved's eyes as "a pair of dark pools, sucking me in and drowning me in their depths." This imagery creates a powerful and haunting impression of the overwhelming nature of love.

## **The Dynamics of Love and Loss**

Neruda's poems explore the dynamic interplay between love and loss. He captures the ecstasy of newfound love in "Poem VI," where he writes, "Your body is a smooth and glowing river, a white cascade that flows through my veins." However, he also delves into the pain of heartbreak and loss in

"Poem XV," where he laments, "I have lost you as one loses a leaf that falls from a limb."

## **The Song of Despair**

The final poem in the collection, the "Song of Despair," is a poignant and heart-wrenching exploration of unrequited love. Neruda's voice is raw and emotional as he pours his soul into verses that convey the depths of pain and longing. He writes, "Oh, my lost love, your absence haunts me like a phantom, a bittersweet memory that torments my weary heart."

## **Literary Significance**

"Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair" is widely regarded as one of the greatest works of Spanish-language poetry. Its influence can be seen in countless other poets who have sought to capture the complexities of love and loss. The collection has been translated into numerous languages and continues to be read and studied by lovers of poetry worldwide.

## **Neruda's Legacy**

Pablo Neruda (1904-1973) was a Chilean poet, diplomat, and political activist. He is considered one of the most important poets of the 20th century and was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1971. Neruda's work is characterized by its passionate and lyrical style, its exploration of human emotions, and its commitment to social justice.

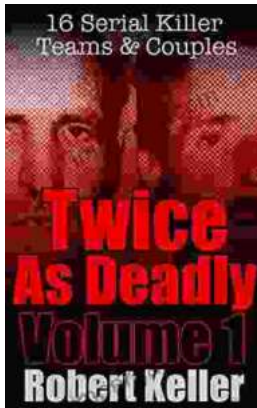
"Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair" is a timeless masterpiece that continues to resonate with readers today. Through its evocative verses, Neruda paints a vivid and intimate portrait of the complexities of love and loss. This collection of poems is a testament to the power of poetry to capture the deepest emotions of the human experience.



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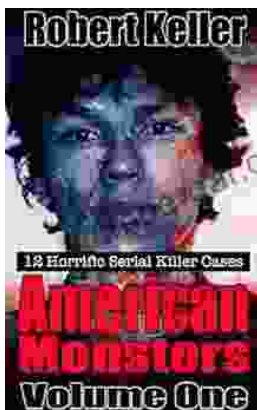
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