

Short anthology for the 21st century | Belén Hernández Grande

The travel of (and with) Belén Hernández Grande begins with a rarely raised question. The mystery is not technical, nor rhetorical. It's only a starting point for a personal and inner journey to the abyss of her soul.

“Poetry is but the echo of the voice from the soul; it sounds and reverberates from one border of my silent spirit to another. It travels through times, ploughing through the seas of memory. It goes through the woods of suffering, it rests in the meadow of hope. It dances to the sounds of the drums of joy, it sleeps forever in the bed of eternity. Poetry, poetry, crazy traveller with its centenarian backpack, do not stop for anything”.

Poetry is not, as someone said, a combination of organized words producing a certain aesthetic or emotional effect. Poetry is the rope for salvation from drowning. Poetry is a travelling companion, as Virgil was for Dante through the corners of the underworld, even though she mentions Whitman, *“the poet of the non rhyming verses”*.

Poetry, the *“orphan kiss of the lips”*, as she calls it, is also a source of maternal love and protection. It's a *“tailor mother”* who *“crochet by crochet, composes a verse, and from hem to hem, sounds a romance”*.

Belén Hernández Grande was born in Ávila (Spain) in 1983. Thanks to her studies in “Grado de Lengua y Literatura Española” (UNED) and “Artes Aplicadas y Diseño”, she is also an expert in techniques of publishing writing, in correcting styles and in creating layouts for interactive projects. She began her literary experience with her first autobiographical novel “La Enfermedad del Pupitre Verde”; since then, she has never stopped her creative effort. She obtained various awards in competitions of different themes and genres, like the First Prize at the “IV Concurso Internacional de Relatos Asombrosos” (Argentina, 2014); she was finalist on the “I Premio de Poesía Roberto Juarroz” (Argentina, 2014); and the reward for the “Estilo Poético por la Editorial Libróptica” (Argentina, 2013). Additionally, her stories have been published as parts of different anthologies of poems and short stories. This book of poems is her first individual publication.

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