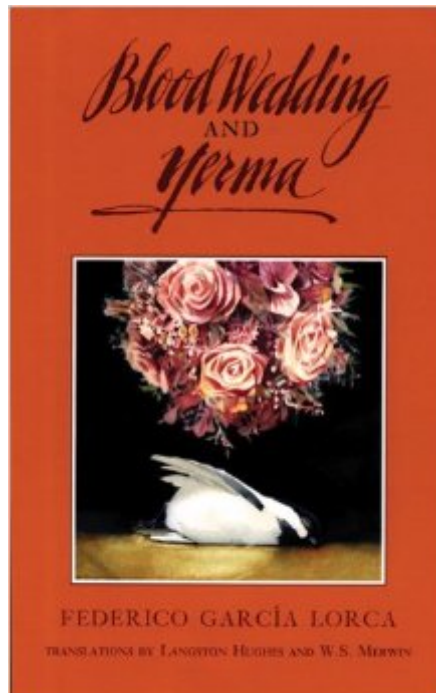


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Blood Wedding And Yerma (TCG Translations)



Synopsis

Mesmerizing and haunting; a lyrical translation.

BroadwayWorld.com; Passionate, primal and poetic; beautifully translated by Langston Hughes. • NOW Toronto; [Merwin's] translation reveals this sensitivity, this sense of scale and musicality. • Melia Benussen, Introduction One of Spain's greatest poets and dramatists, Federico Garcia Lorca wrote in many styles but achieved maturity and fame with his peasant plays, Blood Wedding and Yerma, in which impassioned language and imagery accentuate tragic narratives. These never-before published translations unite Garcia Lorca's masterpieces with two of America's most gifted poets, Langston Hughes and W.S. Merwin. The epigrammatic style and unsentimental lyricism of W.S. Merwin heighten the urgency and fervor of Yerma, the story of a woman whose thwarted yearning for a child makes her murder her indifferent husband. Preeminent African-American poet Langston Hughes infuses his version of Blood Wedding; the story of an unwilling bride who elopes with her lover on her wedding night; with the rhythmic intensity and linguistic beauty only a fellow poet could achieve.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This edition has two of Lorca's most famous plays: Blood Wedding and Yerma. There is some sense in putting them together; both are relatively later plays, Blood sometimes called his first major. Perhaps more importantly, they have similar settings and themes; both deal with early

nineteenth-century rural Spain and focus on central Lorca concerns like desire, repression, ritual, tradition and authority vs. individualism, etc. However, the collection is missing *The House of Bernarda Alba*, which is usually considered Lorca's masterpiece, has much in common with the other two plays, and is often printed with them. Thus, unless one particularly values this translation, it is greatly preferable to get an edition with the far better play. The two plays included are not without interest, in large part because the themes are increasingly dramatized through women. This would have been notable anywhere in the 1930s but is even more remarkable in coming from a heavily Catholic country suffering conservative backlash. Mores were stringent, having a profound cultural effect and intensely affecting individuals; transgressors were heavily punished or, as in the case of Lorca himself, even killed. Lorca's sympathy with women's lot is highly notable, and it is hard to deny a strong connection between it and his own tortured existence as a homosexual in a time and place where he could not live openly with impunity. One can legitimately see these works as similar to Henrik Ibsen's famous "problem plays" - dramatizations of contemporary social problems. Lorca bravely calls into question many traditional Spanish and Catholic beliefs, showing their limitations and the tragic effects that sometimes result. However, there is more to them.

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