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Breathing in Portuguese, Living in English

By Heather Tosteson

Wising Up Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 76 pages. Dimensions: 8.8in. x 5.8in. x 0.3in. Cada lingua concebe outra eu, every language conceives another I, igualmente essencial, new, Heather Tosteson writes in Breathing in Portuguese, Living in English. Exploring through a new language and life in another hemisphere what it means to be in the third stage, terceira idade, of a well-lived life, the poet realizes that she has come here to live into the reality of my own mortality, a reality that holds powerful fulfillment as well as loss. In these poems she invites us to join her as she listens for unsung hymns ready to soar within single words that taste like mamão or sound like happy do; the ravishing howl of a man striding down the street, lost inside o seu som; the o puro barulho, pure hubbub of Brazilian streets; the isolation of the traveler; the restless silence of a distant, dying father; the rush of waves bringing her o lixo, trash, and o tesouro inestimável, priceless treasure. The inventive interplay of the two languages in Breathing in Portuguese, Living in English reminds me of the lively bi-tonal musical compositions of Prokofiev or Darius Milhaud. Every thought...



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