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**Milena Rudež**

SHE WAITS FOR ME

Eye of the Sun!

Can you see  
her squatting  
behind the city wall  
and waiting for me

with raspberry  
on her palm  
so red  
so ripe

found  
between  
two dreams

**Translated from Serbo-Croat-Bosnian by Milica Kajević**

## THE OTHER MARRIAGE

"I Love you" jumped  
from her lap  
flew around  
a blue angel figure  
and descended to his shoulder

she cried, but *I Love you*  
watched her hands  
stood up and kissed  
her mouth  
before everybody

*I Love you* soared up  
to the rafters under the roof  
to watch the guests from above  
arranging their empty cages  
in all corners of the loft

a small door is opened  
in all the cages  
for only one *I Love you*  
still warm  
from the nest

**Translated from Serbo-Croat-Bosnian by Milica Kajević**

## FRIENDSHIP

An old friend  
a flower in the window

in your eyes  
when you look out

into the world  
behind the glass

**Translated from Serbo-Croat-Bosnian by Milica Kajević**

## MEETING BETWEEN TWO CONTINENTS

We stole a tête-à-tête from the distance  
an earring from the sun  
a smile from the breeze  
hid them all in the rustle  
of a fountain in Sarajevo

Now we live with blissfulness  
which spreads  
to all corners of the summer  
we sit quietly  
each of us on our side of the planet

writing poems  
on two ends of the rainbow

**Translated from Serbo-Croat-Bosnian by Milica Kajević**

## POETRY

Poetry exists  
in the unuttered  
between words  
after three dots  
between two beings  
approaching each other  
in invisible movement  
from your eye to my eye  
while we tear the silence  
that gathered on the table  
word for you  
word for me  
and one left for later  
for the one we await  
to appear soon

he is silent  
listens to music  
between two planets  
gliding apart from each other

**Translated from Serbo-Croat-Bosnian by Milica Kajević**

## RETURN HOME

Your house embraces you  
with the smell of wooden floors covered with dew  
you stand beside your suitcase  
waiting for the past to become present  
and the memories hide in the spaces  
behind the drawers  
on the cupboard  
out of arms reach  
and then you start  
rituals  
to smile at the flowers in the window  
to bend your head towards the sunbeam  
to touch bulges on the wall  
to measure the breath by lifting your shoulders  
to share endlessly  
strange thoughts and colours  
weaved into yours -  
a rug spread  
under your feet

**Translated from Danish by Rachel MacIntyre**

## A NEW FRIEND

The window has just opened  
the curtain is rising

a breathless angel  
hides himself  
in the corner of the eye

**Translated from Danish by Milena Rudez**

## THE BOOK

When I am lonely  
I take a book from the shelf

the books stand quietly  
their backs turned  
on me

a cat in the window

**Translated from Danish by Jane Kabel**

## HUMAN POPULATIONS

Everybody is counted.  
In all countries of the world.

We are too many. So they say.  
And we gnaw at the Globe.

**Translated from Danish by Milena Rudez**

## ARCADIA

Everything is clean,  
everything put in order.  
It smells  
of utopia.

People are calm,  
the landscape is calm.  
Everything makes me  
upset.

*(Denmark 1993.)*

**Translated from Danish by Milena Rudez**



## MY ROOM

The white smooth walls  
dear clean surfaces  
Myyyy world

the joy flies  
from one corner  
to another

lands on my head

there are no windows.

**Translated from Danish by Milena Rudez**

## SPRING

the white world  
transforms to a swallow  
the smell of spring

**Translated from Danish by Milena Rudez**

## SUMMER

My dream is captured  
in the sparkling surface  
of the sea waves

**Translate from Danish by Jane Kabel**

## AUTUMN

children scream  
the rain is crying from happiness  
in the schoolyard

**Translated from Danish by Milena Rudez**

## WINTER

I yearn for the fritillary  
red and white  
- your kiss in the dark

**Translated from Danish by Jane Kabel**

**Milena Rudez** was born in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1958. Poetess. She has lived in Denmark since 1992. Her first book of poetry *Diary of a blind passenger* (*Dnevnik slijepog putnika*) was published in 1987 in Sarajevo. The second book of poetry *The Blind Traveller from Sarajevo* is published in 2002 in Copenhagen in bilingual edition (*Den blinde rejsende fra Sarajevo / Slijepi putnik iz Sarajeva*).

Her selected poems have been published in Danish anthologies *Between land and land* (1995), *Among the Good People* (2000), *New Northern Landscapes* (2003) *New Voices* (2007) and *117 Voices* (2012). She is represented in Bosnian anthology *Lost Stars* (*Izgubljene zvijezde*) - *selected poems by 100 female poets from 1908-2008* and international bilingual (Serbian and German) books of poetry *Meetings* (2010), *Steps* (2011) and *Between Two Worlds* (2013). She won the literature prize on the occasion of the European Year Against Racism 1997 for her poem "Confession to Sarah" written in Danish. Many poems in her newest bilingual book of poetry *Behind the glass* (*Svijet iza stakla / Verden bag glasset*, Banja Luka, 2010) is originally written in Danish. The book got awarded Kočićevo pero prize in 2011.

Milena Rudez was one of the editors of the Danish Bosnian literary magazine *Poet*. She introduced the novel *Death end the Dervish* by Meša Selimović in the Danish anthology of world literature for primary school *Worlds Stories* (*Verdenshistorier*).

PR

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