



Erotic Poems

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe , Hans R. Vaget (Editor) , David Luke (Translator)

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This bilingual edition of Goethe's erotic poems contains the *Roman Elegies* (1789), *The Diary* (1810), and a selection from the *Venetian Epigrams* of 1790.

Editorial censorship has long obscured the true form and content of the *Elegies*, which were inspired by Goethe's sexual liberation in Italy and his love for the woman he took as his unofficial wife on his return to Germany. They are here presented as Goethe boldly conceived them together with the long-suppressed narrative poem known as *The Diary*. Superficially the story of a failed sexual adventure by a man of 60, at another level this is a profound study of the psychology of desire and the nature of fidelity, as well as being one of the most beautiful and good-humoured poems in the German language. Completing the edition is a selection from Goethe's more light-hearted and much censored cycle of erotica, the *Venetian Epigrams*. David Luke's translations do full justice to Goethe's aim of liberating German poetry and restoring sexual love to its central position in human life. Hans Vaget's fine introduction provides the background to these poems, as well as showing some of the profound and little-known connections between them.

Erotic Poems Details

Date : Published November 11th 1999 by Oxford University Press (first published 1795)

ISBN : 9780192839398

Author : Johann Wolfgang von Goethe , Hans R. Vaget (Editor) , David Luke (Translator)

Format : Paperback 208 pages

Genre : Poetry, Adult Fiction, Erotica, European Literature, German Literature, Classics, Love, Business, Amazon, Literature

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Edward says

Preface

Introduction

Select Bibliography

Chronology

--Römische Elegien / Roman Elegies

--Aus den Venezianischen Epigrammen / from the Venetian Epigrams

--Das Tagebuch / The Diary

Translator's Postscript

Explanatory Notes

Index to 'Roman Elegies'

Index to 'Venetian Epigrams'

Taruia says

I suppose this one for poetry buffs because whilst I enjoyed it ... but I didn't get all giddy about it.

Crito says

This is nice for how fun and spirited it is. By no means is Goethe going for something heavy, but although the poems aren't entirely remarkable by themselves, it's interesting for its mood which couples classical love elegies with German romanticism, which puts it in a place of playful indulgence which is neither cynical nor naïve. It's never distant or mocking, even if he occasionally makes a joke comparing a loose pussy to a venetian canal. It's a controlled and knowing revelry which aims closer to the sensual than the vulgar, but never lets any poetic high minded pretensions sacrifice the latter. That said, this isn't wholly essential when it comes to Goethe but it's short and enjoyable enough, and it's best as a companion read to his Italian Journey.

Mat Kline says

I don't like this translation as well as the one that's available for free through Project Gutenberg.

Ana Rînceanu says

While this gave me a new understanding of Goethe, not many poems stood out to me.

Maria Paiz says

Goethe never meant for these poems to be published; these are as personal as they are candid. Do not, however, come to this book in search for an 18th century version of 50 Shades. It is 18th century poetry, after all, and a lot of it is hard to follow because the references are so outdated. Still, it's worth reading. I loved the part where he spoke of writing poetry while watching his lover sleep, counting meter by tapping on her naked back. Beautiful! Too bad I don't speak German, to fully appreciate the beauty of his writing.

Antje says

Eine durchaus spannende wie amüsante Lektüre. Den angesehenen Herrn Goethe, der mir seit jeher als maskierter Lustmolch erschien, einmal erotisch ausschweifend und frech zu lesen, ist schon ein Erlebnis für sich. Der Abdruck des Gemäldes einer schlummernden Nymphe, im Hintergrund von dem wollüstigen Pan anvisiert, könnte nicht besser zur Stimmung dieser Lektüre passen. -

Da es sich jedoch, wie bereits im Untertitel angekündigt, allein um eine Sammlung von Skizzen und Fragmenten aus Goethes wohlgehüteten erotischen Wortschatzes handelt, liest sich dieses Büchlein gar zu holprig. Obwohl der Herausgeber allerorts bemüht ist, die fehlenden Zusammenhänge mit Erklärungen auszugleichen, gelingt es ihm leider nicht, die störende Atmosphäre von Lückenhaftigkeit zu vereiteln.

ilknur a.k.a. iko ? says

erotik ?iirler ama kapak enteresan bir biçimde epik.

mwr says

I have a hard time with poems so 4 stars is a high rating from me, but any rating from me is next to worthless.

Everett Darling says

18th century epigrams and elegies dedicated to cunts and cocks. Would have made an awesome impression on a high school required reading list.
