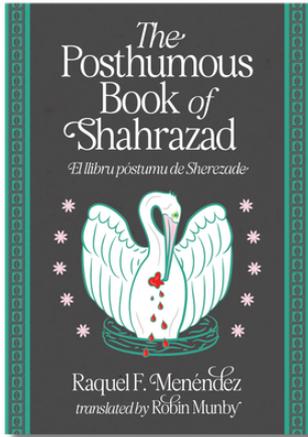


The Posthumous Book of Shahrazad

Raquel F. Menéndez

translated by Robin Munby



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Poetry**

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Throughout this award-winning collection rooted in rural Asturias, Raquel F. Menéndez inverts the generational roles of daughter, mother and great-grandmother, invoking the legendary figure of Shahrazad – the storyteller who spun tales against death – to reveal how the past is held within the present. Memory and forgetting, language and silence, home and exile collude and collide in these poems which ask how to live when so much feels already lost.

This bilingual edition presents a newly revised Asturian text by Menéndez alongside an extraordinary translation into English by Robin Munby. *The Posthumous Book of Shahrazad* is a remarkable testament to what survives when voices fade, and to the intimate power of poetry to keep our histories, our languages, and our selves alive.

Raquel F. Menéndez (Vallouta, Salas, 1993) is an Asturian poet. Her Spanish-language poetry collection *Libélula* was published in 2013, and the Asturian-language collection *El llíbru póstumu de Sherezade*, awarded the Nené Losada Rico prize for Asturian poetry, was published by Impronta in 2017. She is the Juan de la Cierva postdoctoral researcher at the University of Alcalá, specialising in the relationship between gender and authorship in contemporary Spanish literature.

Robin Munby (Liverpool, 1991) is a literary translator based in Madrid. His translations from Spanish, Russian and Asturian have appeared in many publications including *Asymptote*, *The Glasgow Review of Books*, *Minor Literatures*, *Wasafiri* and *World Literature Today*. In December 2023, he was the inaugural resident at the Residencia Lliteraria Xixón in Asturias.

KEY SELLING POINTS

- First English translation of a multi-award-winning book in a bilingual edition.
- Winner of the Nené Losada Rico prize for Asturian poetry and awarded best book in Asturian by the prestigious Tertulia Malory Jury.
- Explores themes such as the oral transmission of language and culture, the lives of women in rural communities, and intergenerational memory, as well as rootedness in landscape and place.
- A profound lyrical meditation on universal questions such as how to reformulate the experience of the earth and the body in the face of loss, and how to reconstruct an identity when it seems condemned to be posthumous.

‘A remarkable testament to all that is found in translation: a collection of poems, a matrilineage, the Asturian poetic tradition, and a reminder that every storyteller since Shahrazad keeps it all alive.’

—Anton Hur