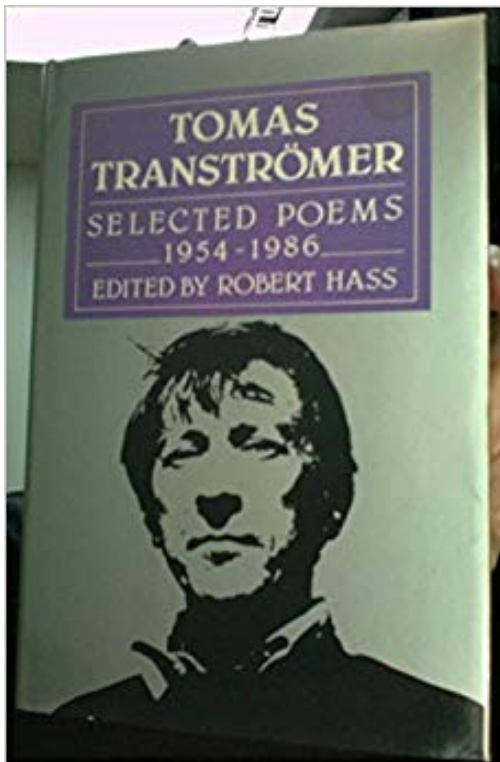


## Tomas Tranströmer: Selected Poems, 1954 - 1986 by Tomas Tranströmer, Robert Haas



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Tomas Tranströmer's poems are thick with the feel of life lived in a specific place: the dark, overpowering Swedish winters, the long thaws and brief paradisaal summers in the Stockholm archipelago. He conveys a sense of what it is like to be a private citizen in the second half of the twentieth century.



## Reviews of the Tomas Tranströmer: Selected Poems, 1954 - 1986 by Tomas Tranströmer, Robert Haas

Anen

Best version of Tranströmer's poems that is available in English.

Stick

Tomas is a worldwide treasure. I'm in awe of his talent.

Delalbine

Anything by Tranströmer is worth having. He's a fantastic poet.

Faugami

This poet's work consistently expands both inward and outward realms of experience and makes them consciously and irresistibly tangible. He is not afraid of laying his nerve endings on the line.

Najinn

Swedish poet, recommended to me by my wife who is Swedish.

A wonderful poet. Some very powerful words.

A great read!

Ces

Tranströmer has a very particular style: his details are very day to day, but he transforms everything in extraordinaire. Recommended for sure.

Drelahuginn

These poems which are so highly admired and for which Tomas Tranströmer was given the Nobel Prize are poems of the single consciousness, the man alone. They lack any real sense of the personal 'other' of humanity consisting of real individuals. They are poems of solitude, of sensitivity in perception and originality in reflection. The list of their translators here Robert Bly, Robin Fulton, May Swenson, Samuel Charters, John F. Deane, Joanna Bankier, Eric Sellin is a list of those dedicated to and devoting much time and effort to a poet they clearly believe to be a great one. Still I in my reading was not able to hear the kind of music I hear in most musical poets, Shakespeare, Keats, Blake, Wallace Stevens, Hopkins, Dylan Thomas.

Instead there is much rich simile and startling imagery, complications of perception feeling and thought. But this kind of originality so pervades the work that I had difficulty reading any plain sense paraphrase in it. In fact I found myself reading and rereading without knowing what is going on.

I suppose though it is above all for the startling imagery that Tranströmer is valued.

Here is an relatively simple example of a Tranströmer poem which I believe well illustrates his startling original imagery, his leaping transitions, the puzzling and at times mystifying feeling his poetry gives.

#### WEATHER PICTURE

The October sea glistens coldly  
with its dorsal fin of mirages.

Nothing is left that remembers  
the white dizziness of yacht races.

Theambler glow over the village  
and all sounds in slow flight.

A dog's barking is a hieroglyph  
painted in the air above the garden

where the yellow fruit outwits  
the tree and drops of its own accord.

.

I just picked it up.

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