Marina Tsvetaeva

Letter to the Amazon

The first English translation of a lost modernist classic, Letter to the Amazon remains a surprisingly contemporary essay written in response to Natalie Clifford Barney's Pensées d'une Amazone (Thoughts of an Amazon). Tsvetaeva uses her essay to emphasize what is to her mind a general truth of lesbian relationships (i.e. they cannot endure because of a woman's innate desire for a child) and to explore her seemingly agonized feelings about Sophia Parnok, the Russian poet with whom she fell in love in 1914.

"The most peculiarly excitable and brilliant ... style in twentieth-century Russian poetry.

— Claudia Roth Pierpont

"Tsvetaeva was a century ahead of her time in thinking about human sexual and emotional freedom.

— Catherine Ciepiela

Marina Tsvetaeva born in Moscow in 1892, was one of the most renowned poets of 20th-century Russia. Her life coincided with years of extreme turbulence in Russian history. She hanged herself on August 31, 1941.

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