

The History of Violets Marosa di Giorgio

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ABOUT THE BOOK

Originally published in 1965, *The History of Violets* (*Historial de las violetas*) twists the familiar face of a family farm, populating the fields and grounds with gods, monsters, and a whole “foamy army” of extras. With disarming grace, these poems leave the reader swirling about, among the flowers, where no one is safe.

“One of the most spectacular and strange Latin American poets of the past fifty years.” —KENT JOHNSON

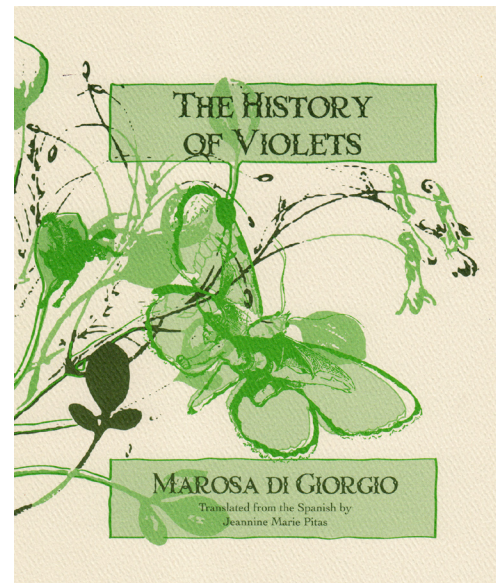
“*The History of Violets* is a history of witnessing across a network of furtive but always alert gazes. In di Giorgio’s eyes and imagination we find transformation and, ultimately, freedom.” —FARID MATUK

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born in Salto, Uruguay, and raised on her family’s farm, Marosa di Giorgio (1932-2004) is one of the most prominent Uruguayan poets of the twentieth century. She published a total of fourteen books of poetry, three collections of short stories, and one novel. Although di Giorgio was relatively unknown outside the Southern Cone during her lifetime, she is now becoming more and more widely read throughout Latin America and Europe.

ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

Jeannine Marie Pitas is a teacher, translator, and writer from Buffalo, NY. She has translated three of Marosa di Giorgio’s books into English: *The History of Violets*, *Magnolia*, and *The Native Garden is in Flames*. She is currently pursuing an M.A. in Comparative Literature at the University of Toronto.



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Last night again I saw the chest of drawers, the oldest, from my grandmother’s wedding, my mother and her sisters’ youth, my childhood. There it stood with its high mirror, its baskets of paper roses.

And then the white chick—almost a dove—flew from the trees to eat rice from my hands. She felt so real to me that I was going to kiss her.

But then, everything burst into flames and disappeared. God stows his things away safely.

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