Alejandra Pizarnik

The Last Innocence/The Lost Adventures

Translated by Cecilia Rossi
Introduction by Ana Becciu

The Last Innocence and The Lost Adventures are Alejandra Pizarnik’s second and third collections of poetry. Published in Buenos Aires shortly after The Most Foreign Country, her first book of poetry (which she would later disavow), these early poems blend the real and the imaginary, demonstrating the inner torment, deep solitude, and acute vulnerability that would plague Pizarnik throughout her short life.

“Pizarnik illuminates the abysses of emotional sensitivity, desire, and absence.”

— Rául Zurita

“Pizarnik is a heroic voyager slaying demons and recovering lost languages.”

— Kate Prengel, Words Without Borders

Alejandra Pizarnik (1926-1972) was a leading voice in twentieth-century Latin American poetry. Pizarnik spent most of her life in Argentina, but moved to Paris in 1960 where she was influenced by the work of the Surrealists and fellow expatriates Julio Cortázar and Octavio Paz. Known primarily for her poetry, Pizarnik also wrote experimental fiction, plays, a literary diary, and works of criticism.

Cecilia Rossi, originally from Buenos Aires, is a Lecturer in Literature and Translation at the University of East Anglia. Her translations of Pizarnik’s works have been published by Waterloo Press and in Music and Literature No. 6.