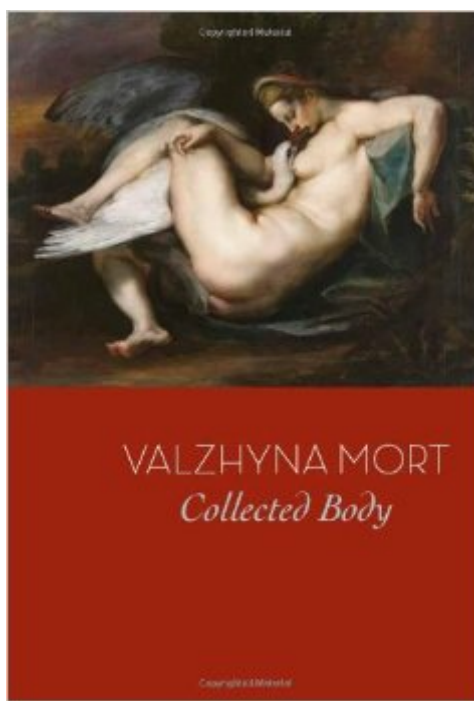


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Collected Body



Synopsis

"Mort is a fireball. . . . Personal, political, and passionate, Mort's poetry will surely sustain many reading audiences. Highly recommended."—Library Journal"A one-of-a-kind work of passion and insight."—Midwest Book Review"Mort's style—tough and terse almost to the point of aphorism—recalls the great Polish poets Czeslaw Milosz and Wislawa Szymborska."—Los Angeles TimesValzhyna Mort is a dynamic Belarusian poet, and *Collected Body* is her first collection composed in English. Whether writing about sex, relatives, violence, or fish markets as opera, Mort insists on vibrant, dark truths. "Death hands you every new day like a golden coin," she writes, then warns that as the bribe grows "it gets harder to turn down.""Preface"on a bare tree—a red beast,so still, it has become the tree.now it's the tree that prowls over the beast,a cautious beast itself.a stone thrown at its breastis so fast—the stone has become the beast.now it's the beast that throws itself like a stone,blood like a dog-rose tree on a windy day,and the moon is trying on your facefor the annual masquerade of the dead.death decides to wait to hear more.so death mews:first—your story, then—me.Valzhyna Mort was born in Minsk, Belarus. Her American debut, *Factory of Tears*, appeared in 2008 and she was featured on the cover of *Poets & Writers*. She has received many honors and awards, including a Civitella Raineri fellowship. She lives in Baltimore, Maryland.

Book Information

Paperback: 110 pages

Publisher: Copper Canyon Press (November 8, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1556593724

ISBN-13: 978-1556593727

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 0.2 x 8.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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