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The Colossus

& OTHER POEMS

SYLVIA PLATH

Sylvia Plath

The Colossus & Other Poems

Sylvia Plath was born in 1932 in Massachusetts. She began publishing poems and stories as a teenager and by the time she entered Smith College had won several poetry prizes. She was a Fulbright Scholar in Cambridge, England, and married British poet Ted Hughes in London in 1956. The young couple moved to the States, where Plath became an instructor at Smith College. Later, they moved back to England, where Plath continued writing poetry and wrote her novel, *The Bell Jar*, which was first published under the pseudonym Victoria Lucas in England in 1963. On February 11, 1963, Plath committed suicide. Her *Collected Poems*, published posthumously in 1981, won the Pulitzer Prize.



The Colossus

☞ Other Poems

by Sylvia Plath

VINTAGE INTERNATIONAL VINTAGE BOOKS
A DIVISION OF RANDOM HOUSE, INC. NEW YORK



FIRST VINTAGE INTERNATIONAL EDITION, MAY 1998

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All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. Published in the United States by Vintage Books, a division of Random House, Inc., New York, and simultaneously in Canada by Random House of Canada Limited, Toronto. Originally published in hardcover in the United States by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., in 1962.

First published in England in somewhat different form by William Heinemann Ltd.

eISBN: 978-0-307-80882-0

Random House Web address: www.randomhouse.com

v3.1

For Ted

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Arts in Society, The Atlantic Monthly, Audience, Chelsea, Critical Quarterly, Encounter, Greccourt Review, Harper's Magazine, The Horn Book, The Hudson Review, The Kenyon Review, London Magazine, Mademoiselle, The Nation, The Observer, The Partisan Review, Poetry, The Sewanee Review, The Spectator, The Texas Literary Quarterly, and The Times Literary Supplement; also The New Yorker, where the following poems originally appeared: "Hardcastle Crags," "Man in Black," "Mussel Hunter at Rock Harbor," and "Watercolor of Grantchester Meadows." I would also like to thank Elizabeth Ames and the Trustees at Yaddo, where many of the poems were written.

CONTENTS

[Cover](#)

[About the Author](#)

[Title Page](#)

[Copyright](#)

[Dedication](#)

[Acknowledgments](#)

[The Manor Garden](#)

[Two Views of a Cadaver Room](#)

[Night Shift](#)

[Sow](#)

[The Eye-mote](#)

[Hardcastle Crags](#)

[Faun](#)

[Departure](#)

[The Colossus](#)

[Lorelei](#)

[Point Shirley](#)

[The Bull of Bendylaw](#)

[All the Dead Dears](#)

[Aftermath](#)

[The Thin People](#)

[Suicide Off Egg Rock](#)

[Mushrooms](#)

[I Want, I Want](#)

[Watercolor of Grantchester Meadows](#)

The Ghost's Leavetaking
A Winter Ship
Full Fathom Five
Blue Moles
Strumpet Song
Man in Black
Snakecharmer
The Hermit at Outermost House
The Disquieting Muses
Medallion
The Companionable Ills
Moonrise
Spinster
Frog Autumn
Mussel Hunter at Rock Harbor
The Beekeeper's Daughter
The Times Are Tidy
The Burnt-out Spa
Sculptor
Flute Notes from a Reedy Pond
The Stones

The Manor Garden

The fountains are dry and the roses over.
Incense of death. Your day approaches.
The pears fatten like little buddhas.
A blue mist is dragging the lake.

You move through the era of fishes,
The smug centuries of the pig—
Head, toe and finger
Come clear of the shadow. History

Nourishes these broken flutings,
These crowns of acanthus,
And the crow settles her garments.
You inherit white heather, a bee's wing,

Two suicides, the family wolves,
Hours of blankness. Some hard stars
Already yellow the heavens.
The spider on its own string

Crosses the lake. The worms
Quit their usual habitations.
The small birds converge, converge

With their gifts to a difficult borning.