



**The Mountain in the Sea**  
by Victor Hernández Cruz

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Victor Hernández Cruz



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# The Mountain in the Sea

POEMS BY VICTOR HERNÁNDEZ CRUZ

*A strong, richly lyric synthesis of Spanish, North African, Caribbean, and North and South American cultures.*

“Victor Hernández Cruz has been singing and chanting like the tropical *tomeguín* since the Gods of Caribbean poetry designated him pantheon court bard. The poems in this new volume are absolutely marvelous and breathtaking in their range, vision, and scope. *The Mountain in the Sea* is the kind of collection to be expected from an older, much wiser poet in the autumn of their creative life, but this garland of sweet-scented gardenias disguised as poems comes to us from a poet who is always young, who is always hip to the vibrant language of one of the most beautiful regions of the world.”

—VIRGIL SUÁREZ

Renowned for his pioneering mixture of both Spanish and English in poetry and prose, Victor Hernández Cruz has now incorporated Arabic language and North African culture into his unique poetic idiom. Divided into three sections, these poems explode with the energy of Cruz’s recent experiences in Northern Africa and paint vivid portraits of musicians, artists, writers, and religious and cultural figures that pay tribute to the New York of his youth and the wider world that he continues to explore.

As America attempts to understand its place in the world, many poets have been looking not at our *differences*, but at our *connections*. In the most ambitious of these poems, Cruz achieves a sense of gravitas that illuminates the confluence between our various geographies, histories, languages, and mythologies.

“*The Mountain in the Sea* is an effervescent volcano of world connections to the mature poet’s Spanish Harlem roots. The ‘Portraits’ section contains energetic odes to the forming of the young poet, son muy ricos with remembrances for us all. It is always a treat to read Victor Hernández Cruz, among the best to come out of the Nuyorican experience.”

—ANA CASTILLO

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Cruz moved to New York at the age of five and now divides his time between Morocco and his native Puerto Rico. Featured in Bill Moyers’s *Language of Life* series and a two-time World Heavyweight Champion poet, Cruz’s most recent collection, *Maraca*, was a finalist for the Lenore Marshall and Griffin Poetry Prizes.

- Watch the poet read “Problems with Hurricanes” at The Griffin Trust for Excellence in Poetry: [www.griffinpoetryprize.com](http://www.griffinpoetryprize.com).
- More on Victor Hernández Cruz can be found at The Academy of American Poets: [www.poets.org](http://www.poets.org)

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