# One Day You Will Tell Me

**Collected Poems** 

by Irma Kurti

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First Edition

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Poetry

## Dedication

To my parents, Hasan Kurti and Sherife Mezini,to tell them that there is not a single day when I don't think about them and that they are inside me, in the safest place, the soul, where only the greatest loves are preserved...

### Preface

For years, I have followed the poetic activity of Irma Kurti with inexhaustible interest and great curiosity. Engaging with Kurti has granted me the opportunity to express myself over time. For me, it is a renewed honor to be able to open the precious pages of a new book written by her. Each is so full of life, emotions, and images that look with great passion at a past that is increasingly receding from the liquid everyday life.

Hers is a poetic attention to the particularities of situations and images that have the potential to bring back vivid memories. They are pleasant to remember, like a breeze of fresh air, but at the same time painful because they reveal our distance from that Edenic and carefree yesterday, which was lived in the fullness of feelings and in the company of loving figures, such as the parents to whom this collection is dedicated.

If it is true that a feeling of deep melancholy and painful expectation predominates (albeit an illusory one), these compositions are also the preferred means by which the Poetess—even today—can keep alive that bond with her loved ones. They are indissoluble presences in her existence that inhabit every domain of her experience in an omnipresent way.

As already observed elsewhere, the image of one's own parents is formed not only in the moments of serenity in which they were limited to an age of happiness, when life flowed normally without particular worries, but also in the bitterest moments. The Poetess recalls the latter with a mixture of sadness and resentment, as in the lyric dedicated to her beloved mother: *"And the roads extended before you / without end and beginning*  / as in the twilight, you tried to collect / the last pieces of your desires that vanished / just like some white clouds." Poetry itself becomes a feeling of time and is gradually colored with images of torment due to the affliction of the pain felt by her ill parents. with gasps of escape and the desire to hope, but also with careful descriptions of environments, circumstances, and the changing times and seasons. The whole work profoundly evokes the changes of time, its unstoppable evasion that makes us discover fragile, transient beings in constant evolution subjected to the inclement human weather of detachment, mourning, and absence. These are moments-to cite Van Gennep-in which the humans consciously elaborate the passage from one stage to another and in which the liminary frontier areas frequently represent experiences of gloom and confusion, lived in an excruciating loneliness and a frantic search for reasons that, unfortunately, cannot be identified.

However, the book presents a wide thematic variety, which makes it enjoyable and persuasive to the reader. We rediscover the feeling of nostalgia for the homeland ("As I dream of rinsing my body / there where the waterfall flows," and again, "We had the sea close by, it didn't take much / to hold the waves in our hands") but also get a look at the canonical existential vexations that situate humans in insurmountable aporias and impracticable dilemmas ("Who will accompany you in a dream, / [...] when I won't be any more in this life?").

The Poetess also reflects on the authentic value of the word and the ease of *saying*, which often reveals hypocritical verbal constructions ("*no one believes in their words /even those who wrote them*")—a sign of a reality in which there is an irremediable gap between meaning and signifier and in which incommunicability and sloppiness, even within the world of feelings, which should be ardently protected, seem to take lead roles. All this is contrasted with a timeless, metaphysical language made up of sounds perceived in the interior, of unspoken dialogues and perceptions that bring the Poetess closer to her loved ones—a sort of imperceptible ultrasound who strengthens, albeit in silence, a bond of love that never faded, not even with death (*"The power of your thought will take me to you / to make all sadness vanish"*). Irma Kurti, who is a poetess inscribed in the etymological history of the word "poetry," shows herself to be an attentive and passionate woman when writing on paper, thanks to her brilliant attitude and the creative spark that propels her. Images, shapes, and changes fascinate us: "*I collect streams of rain / in my hands like small / ponds and transform / lightning into lamps / to illuminate your road / when you come back to me.*"

#### **LORENZO SPURIO** Poet and Literary Critic

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Irma Kurti

#### Red Roses

The red roses have been cut for they were wild, did not disperse scent at all. There's nothing left now, only a few branches that, like arms, seek help. The scattered buds on the grass are wet with dew. The petals thrown here and there wait full of hope that someone will take and hold them in the palm, smell them, give another, the last chance, in the end, wake them from the oblivion wherein they lie.

#### The Necklace

Don't shed tears in front of people who consider them raindrops that flood their roads—people who can't feel your sorrow, the ones that go away not to sadden themselves.

Tears now roll down your cheeks, and slowly, they reach your neck, forming the most beautiful necklace, so clear, limpid, and transparent.

#### Let Me Go

Let me go before it's too late towards a land where there is light and a lot of sun, to virgin beaches without a trace, where a wave kisses me with passion, and a shell has the shape of a heart.

Let me go before this feeling drowns me in an immense, turbulent ocean, before I rest suspended on the wings of the wind, just like an autumn leaf.

Leave, run away on any day with a suitcase full of unspoken words, with the gestures we have not exchanged, with our glances full of tears and joy.

Let me go before it is too late!

#### I Loved You

I loved you like one loves life: with joy and cheerfulness, but above all, with suffering, nostalgia, and sleepless nights.

I looked for your portrait in every rose petal, in every clear mirror of water. I looked for your anger in a winter sea, for your voice in the deep silences, and for your smile in a distant and colorful rainbow.

Now I'm left with the crumbled letters of your name between my fingers, with a story, ours, which may or may not be over, with my spirit cracked because of the long waits, with my slow steps from the fear of falling once again.

And I'm still waiting for you with hundreds of wrinkles scattered on my skin, my gaze wet with tears, my soul full of light, as clear as a dewdrop that will dream about you up to the end of days, in love.

#### Loneliness

It's so long, the day without you, and it drags itself like a snake; it crosses my existence, and so my hours are poisoned and sad.

The sun is pale; the colors have lost all their nuances, and behind the windowpane I wait for you, I look for you, I call your name but it is all in vain.

Loneliness holds my face and voice; it also holds your name, whereas the light reveals like a giant mirror my sorrow and pain.

#### Your Anger

I also love your anger, the voice that rises like a kite in the sky when my silences remain the best way to keep us together and even a laugh is too much.

I also love your anger. It arrives after days of light and of joy, too; it overwhelms me like a wave. But even then, I imagine escaping to a happy island without people, only with you.

Walking on the sand, wrapped in the magic of the silence, hand in hand, in love with the breeze and the wind, but more with your tracks on the virgin beaches in the long season of winter.

I love your anger.

#### This Evening

This evening is beautiful, magical like this: silent, speechless, with a thousand stars that turn on and, in a hurry, go out in the sky, with the lamps on the trees imitating their light.

And I wander with your handsome portrait in my mind, with my soul that fills up with sounds, smiles, and memories chased from the stars, getting lost in another time and a different space, where I await your return with mixed joy and anxiety.

#### A Desert

How can I love you if you offer me only this immense and deep silence like a boundless desert burning my soul? I wander disoriented in these streets, surrounded by questions that find no answer at all.

And I feel lost. It would be enough to hear only one word from you. I would have encoded all your fears, your insecurities, all those doubts that keep you away from me. One word would be enough for me to cross this desert: huge and infinite.

#### Time to Get Back

It's time to get back to my days. It's been a century since you knocked on my door. I do not want to tell you anything about my sleepless nights, those long hours wrapped in melancholy, how many times I stepped on the subtle path of madness.

It's time to get back to me, to my gray days, and to wake me up from lethargic sleep, erase my anxieties with your smile, and throw a ray of sunshine in my life. I'll be able to turn it into the most vivid rainbow.

#### These are Not Leaves

These are not leaves that the autumn throws on my hair, my shoulders; they are hands greeting me today while I drag an old and heavy suitcase that keeps the seasons we lived together.

These are not raindrops running down my cheeks, but tears: so limpid and clear.

These are not puddles reflecting now my face but rivers of thoughts and reflections.

Goodbyes always hurt; they leave you bitter in the heart, even if, somewhere out there, a world of magic colors waits...

#### Think About Me

Think about me on your long walks on the seashore, when the breeze is caressing your gray hair and the sea's salty smell rests on your skin like a tattoo.

Think about me in the long hours of solitude under the sky embroidered with thousands of stars, when the cigarette trembles on your lips, the smoke covers your face; the world without me in it is no longer a paradise. In those instants, when you touch the shells that leave a sand grain between your fingers, when the sun sets below your look: sweet, melancholic, lost somewhere.

The power of your thought will take me to you to make all sadness vanish. I will be there, by your side, to wrap myself in your embrace as in a soft, delicate, immense white cloud.

#### In the Mirror

I don't know what this thought or feeling is. Maybe it's nothing, just a bit of drunkenness from this spring that I live within these walls, where the seasons don't knock to greet me.

I don't know what this emotion is; maybe it's a crumb, maybe a world ... a need of my soul, eager and thirsty for some harmony and love. For the first time, in the mirror, I see my smile.

#### The Telephone Wire

Today I touched with my hand your fragility, your delicate, vibrant voice in a background of suffocated words as if they came from another world.

And the telephone wire transmitted everything: your unhappiness, your agony. You were lost in sobs and in tears telling me your gloomy story.

It transmitted everything, but not my discomfort and sorrow, my love that vibrated like the flash of a lighthouse in a sea of strong waves and storms.

#### Other People, Other Stories

I have to meet other people, listen to other stories, dry other tears, but no one of them are like you, like your tears and melodious voice.

Other people and a thousand stories keep me stuck on the tortuous roads. I would never like to step on them: a chaos of events or intrigues just like a house of cobwebs.

I have to meet other people, listen to other stories, dry other tears too, though inside me, I keep a gray sky and all roads lead me back to you.

#### Ice Between My Fingers

I wanted to hear your voice. My heart would blossom like a flower; my joy would flow just like a stream through the long telephone wire.

I would bring the spring into my hands, bird songs, a wealth of buds. I would watch this scary and chaotic world with happy and loving eyes.

I wanted to hear your voice and touch happiness with my hands, but they feel cold, so between my fingers I now have only ice and frost.

#### Come Back to Me!

Come back to me if you're not happy, if your days are lonely, if the four walls of your house don't make you happy.

Storms split the skies, and the lightning is the only neon that illuminates the paths; drops of rain beat now on the roof, imitating the knocks at the door. Come back to me tonight!

I collect streams of rain in my hands like small ponds and transform lightning into lamps to illuminate your road when you come back to me.

#### The Streets of Sunday

The streets of Sunday are long and infinite; your footprints aren't seen anywhere. The parks, the trees are wrapped in full silence, the branches bend over me—just like arms.

I seek your portrait under a sky that now shows to me a veil of clouds, or on the bleak streets, without even anonymous people or children's smiles. It gets confused in the fog of my immense nostalgia, of the emptiness that I feel, and it then turns into a memory.

The streets of Sunday, infinite tracks, more lonely and abandoned than me.

### I Don't Want to Donate to You this World

I don't want to donate to you this world in ruins, where you find violence, horror, tears of dew and broken branches that stand in our way.

I don't want to donate to you this world in ruins, but a part of my soul, where a song, a flower have found a space, where a verse grows and is transformed into a poem.

I don't want to donate to you this world, but only the part of my anima that belongs to you.

#### One Day You Will Tell Me

One day, you'll tell me your story, your first kiss, the tears you've shed for a bygone love, your nostalgia for your distant land and its paths.

One day, you'll tell me your story, your walks and your slips, looking for happiness, that open door that never invited you in, the illusions, insecurities, anxieties, intimacies.

I'll hear your voice, which always restores peace in the chaos within me, tremulous like a candle flame: sweet, elusive, resembling a dream as the stars fall beyond the window.

I shall feel sorry that I was not there long ago, in that journey of your life to dry your tears, gather your fears in my hands, and dispel them like white butterflies into the dark night.

#### We Had the Sea Close By

We had the sea close by; wide and infinite in its anger, it tried hard to enter our words. We had the sea close by; it didn't take much to hold the waves in our hands. Only a step would be enough, and the particles of sand between our fingers would have penetrated.

But I had you close to my soul. The noises, the waves vanished at sunset, a thousand particles of sand faded, lost somewhere. It was your voice that remained; like a cradle it rocked me with the tenderness of a wave. Irma Kurti

#### My Anima, a Feather

It was just a quick embrace, like the elusive flight of a butterfly brushing in an instant your hair.

It was just a warm hug inside a body that trembled like a leaf, that anonymous world, which was a thousand times much more familiar than my house.

It was nothing more than a hug, but who knows why—in those moments, my anima felt so light, like a feather that ascends to the sky.

#### Under the Ruins

I don't remember how many cold days this winter month has had, if it has been snowing a lot, if the cars were stuck on a patch of ice, if the happy children built a snowman, if they were happier than ever.

I don't remember if roads were flooded by heavy rain, if it then poured into the river, if its drops hit the glass window, if a poet dedicated a poem to the sun, if passionate couples kissed under the angry sky, if steps vanished in the distance.

But I remember very well how many cloudy and rainy days I had myself, how many limpid tears I have shed, how many others have frozen in my eyelids, how many times I have tried to find myself under the ruins, so as to breath, to stand up more determined again.

#### I Feel Naked

I feel naked in this rough winter, and I tremble, weak and delicate; people rush, no one looks at me, I'm only anonymous to them.

Your hands don't cover me with a blanket; they do not touch me, do not give me warmth, whereas you go away in a frenzied run and don't realize that I'm really cold.

Oh, you don't see me trembling, don't decipher my empty looks, you see me as one who doesn't exist; what really matters is only your own tranquility and peace.

#### People Want Your Smile

People want only your smile, even when your heart cries, when it's immersed in grief, when it sees no sun or light.

People want only your smile, words that shine and spark, while you are disintegrating within yourself and feel that, imperceptibly, you're dying.

#### Desires

I wish I could have wept off your tears, the ones you swallowed in silence, Mom. I wish I could have given you more love and calmness as you looked behind the glass window with your big eyes like a beautiful dream. And the roads extended before you, without end and beginning, as in the twilight, you tried to collect the last pieces of your desires that vanished just like some white clouds.

I thought diseases could do nothing to you, that you were immune to evil, to pains, sufferings, or anxieties, that you were strong and invincible like a rock, that the waves wet but didn't destroy.

And now, I cry your tears of despair at a time that a second chance can never be given to me again.

## A Veil

I don't know when I'll return to my homeland again, I will miss even the particles of dust covering my thoughts as a cloud.

I'll miss the drops of water falling from the faucet slowly as I dream of rinsing my body there where the waterfalls flow.

As I close the door, crumbs of plaster fall on my shoulder like a veil, transparent and white.

# My Thoughts

Early morning. My thoughts wander, disorientated, without knowing yet what direction to take.

The sun road that radiates colors, light full of magic or the alley of a gray cloud?

Early morning. Only the echo of my thoughts is heard as they crash with one another and rotate as in a game, trying to choose between sun and shade.

#### Who Will Protect You?

Who will protect you from anxieties when I am no longer in this universe, who'll caress your beautiful forehead saying, "Let's sleep, for it is late"?

Who will whisper words of comfort, the ones that flow just like a stream, who will give you a caress, a smile, waking up your anima and fantasy?

Who will accompany you in a dream, speak to you or give you a lot of love, who will kiss you, who will touch you when I won't be any more in this life?

### The Spectacle of the Sky

It is the same light when I get up fast, when I run towards the bus like crazy, when it passes me by and I rest there, just like a melancholic stain.

It's the same tree and the same people I see every day, the same trembling of leaves and the delicate fall of them.

But the sky shows a diverse spectacle; sometimes it's gray, sometimes blue or covered with a handful of clouds, so soft and white. It often shows me a plane that crosses it noisily, just like a giant bird with its rigid, immovable wings flying towards the infinite.

#### A Good Man

Today, a man passed away. I saw him fighting against his suffering, tired, weak, lying in the bed as his body and soul were slowly fading.

A good man passed away while the others still talk, laugh, and run towards unknown destinations, which rarely make them meet happiness. Nature is silent, it does not breathe, the birds interrupt their song, the air is sparse and breathing is really fatiguing. The anima of a few people, that is, his family, vibrates now like the guitar string.

## Amid the Pains

When you smile amid the pains, Father, it is not like a ray of sun in a cloudy sky, nor a rainbow in the tempest, nor a happiness or a joy that enlightens my heart.

When you smile amid the pains that don't leave your weak body, I see the portrait of this life filled with beauty and pain, light and shade, joy and despair, and then, my fragility turns into strength.

#### Motionless

Here is the rain we dreamed so long for. We raised our heads, muttered prayers, hoping it would arrive; it is transformed into small streams carrying pebbles. Now and then, you see papers or letters of love; outdated, no one believes in their words, even those who wrote them. And just in this landscape, I stay motionless, wanting one stream to take me and send me away to a wavy lake or the sea of my home country.

#### Dancing with You, Dad

I would love to dance with you, Dad, two waves that embrace each other, follow the slow rhythm of your steps, hum the fragment of a song and laugh.

We'll glide just like a ship on the sea, talk for hours, like we did in the past, touch happiness even for an instant, dancing the waltz of a treacherous life.

I've forgotten the echo of your steps, that guided me when I was a child, now the fate has brought you down to your knees, not your soul and heart.

I would love to dance with you, Dad.

## Close to the Fire

Temperatures have dropped now and snowflakes continue to fall, the fire is burning in the hearth, I don't know why I feel so cold.

You are fleeing in the darkness, your footsteps are now covered with snow, my heart calls your name in a loud and shaky voice.

My words, like heavy stones on you; sorrow and repentance I've inside of me. As you leave in the moonless night, sitting close to the fire, I feel that my heart's freezing.

# A Flower Petal

Sometimes you're so fragile, like a flower petal that the wind whirls on the sidewalk, without force, colorless, which assumes the nuances of your sadness and sorrow.

Thus, you leave yourself in the hands of wind throwing you wherever it wants, for you can't tell it "yes" or "no."

A flower petal in the air is lifted by the storm, just later, inert and hopeless, it lies on the road.

# **Dreamy Nights**

There are nights that resemble a dream; elusive as the breeze, they inebriate you like a glass of wine, as the rain mixes with snow under the dim neon light.

The silence is muted into words, his look is a beautiful mystery. The dark vanishes in a second, the moon seems magic, unique.

As you walk around the streets you want to embrace the world, do not want to turn back home, because it can't contain your joy.

## Your Portrait

I shall visit again the places where we loved each other, where we laughed and cried.

I'll walk slowly on the shore, sit on a bench, contemplate the sunset we used to watch together. I shall collect then pieces of dialog, memories, embraces, kisses, and when I shall leave, your portrait will be reflected in my tears.

#### The Worst Wait

Seconds, minutes go by, the wall clock beats like a threat in this colorless sunset. Tonight, I stay so close to your bed as you are leaving forever, Dad.

You hardly breath, don't feel my hugs and kisses. I listen to the final beats of your heart or to your pain and sighs that now accompany your trip to the last station. You keep your eyes tightly closed, with the desire to sleep, never waking. But your story is also mine; surely you will be forever a part of me. It is the worst wait I have ever had in my life.

# A Memory

You will be transformed into a memory today, into a painful and beautiful one. I'll feel no longer your embrace or love. My steps are slow, my heart heavy as we accompany you to the last shelter, where the peace prevails, the sun is so cold; on your grave, beneath a poplar's shadow, thousand of leaves the wind will blow.

## The Immense Summer Sky

I was waiting for a sweet word that night that would've filled my soul with light while above us just like a field of fireflies expanded the infinite summer sky.

I was just waiting for a caress like a soft wave of the sea two steps away from us, but you simply spoke and I was surely lost in a labyrinth of episodes from your past.

Your voice trembled and mingled with the waves; in fragments it came to me as all my illusions vanished. It was enough just to live the magic of that moment.

My love prevailed in the atmosphere; it was filled with scents, manifold sounds, close and elusive. I felt so happy, drunk, your words wrapped in light—a distant lighthouse in a dark and remote harbor.

Days have passed, turning into months, the skies have changed and become leaden and gray. The clouds announce the tempests, but I still have above me that immense summer sky like a field boundless and unattainable—of fireflies.

# About the Author



Irma Kurti is an Albanian poetess, writer. lyricist, journalist. and translator. She is a naturalized Italian citizen who has been writing since she was a child. In 1980, she was honored with her first national prize on Pionieri magazine's 35th anniversary for her poem "To my homeland." In 1989, she second prize in a won national competition organized by Radio Tirana anniversary of the the 45th on

Liberation of Albania.

All her books are dedicated to the memory of her beloved parents Hasan Kurti and Sherife Mezini, who supported and encouraged her on every step of her literary path.

Kurti has won numerous literary prizes and awards in Italy and Italian Switzerland. She was awarded the "Universum Donna" International Prize IX Edition 2013 for Literature and a lifetime nomination as an "Ambassador of Peace" by the University of Peace of Italian Switzerland. In 2020, she received the title of Honorary President of WikiPoesia, the Encyclopedia of Poetry. In 2021, she was awarded the title "Liria" (Freedom) by the Arbëreshë Community in Italy. She was awarded the "Leonardo da Vinci" and "Giacomo Leopardi" prizes by the "Chimera Arte Contemporanea" Cultural Association of Lecce. In 2022, she was awarded the title of Mother Foundress and Lady of the Order of Dante Alighieri of the Republic of Poets. She is a jury member of several literary contests in Italy and a translator at the Ithaca Foundation in Spain.

Irma Kurti has published 26 books in Albanian, 20 in Italian, 10 in English, and two in French. She has written about 150 lyrics for adults and children. She is also the translator of 13 books by different authors and of all her own books in Italian and English.

Outside of Albania, her books have been published in the United States, Canada, France, Italy, Romania, Turkey, Kosovo, the Philippines, Cameroon, and India. She lives in Bergamo, Italy.

# **Previous Works**



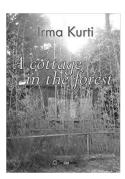
#### I Knew the Gray Sky

https://www.amazon.com/Knew-Gray-Sky-Irma-Kurti/dp/163382277X



#### Under my Blouse

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#### A cottage in the forest

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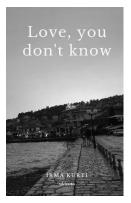
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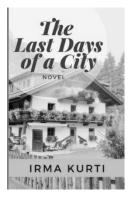
# In Every Raindrop: A Collection of Love Poems

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#### Love, you don't know

https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/love-youdont-know-irma-kurti/1141766631



#### The Last Days of a City

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#### Vanished Loves: A Collection of Poems

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# Your Image Between My Fingers: Tu imagen mis dedos

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