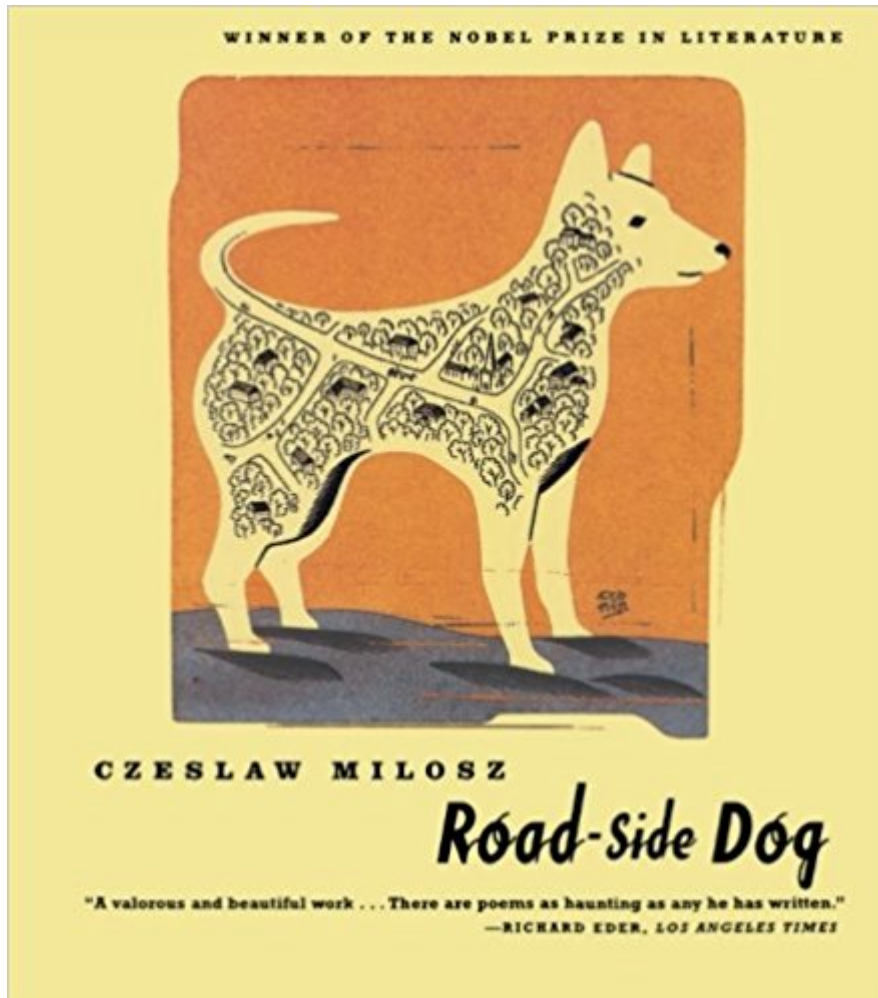




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Road-side Dog



Synopsis

"I went on a journey in order to acquaint myself with my province, in a two-horse wagon with a lot of fodder and a tin bucket rattling in the back. The bucket was required for the horses to drink from. I traveled through a country of hills and pine groves that gave way to woodlands, where swirls of smoke hovered over the roofs of houses, as if they were on fire, for they were chimneyless cabins; I crossed districts of fields and lakes. It was so interesting to be moving, to give the horses their rein, and wait until, in the next valley, a village slowly appeared, or a park with the white spot of a manor in it. And always we were barked at by a dog, assiduous in its duty. That was the beginning of the century; this is its . I have been thinking not only of the people who lived there once but also of the generations of dogs accompanying them in their everyday bustle, and one night-I don't know where it came from-in a pre-dawn sleep, that funny and tender phrase composed itself: a road-side dog."

--Road-Side Dog

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Czeslaw Milosz's "Road Side Dog" is a somewhat uneven and mind numbingly powerful treatise from the Polish giant, counted "Righteous Among the Nations" for his resistance to the Nazi regime (which included attending underground lectures and getting Jews fake baptismal certificates) and winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature, written when he was 87. As wrought with doubt and agony as "Second Space", a perhaps lesser work, these 208 pages contain perhaps more wisdom concerning faith and life than a 1,000 page theological treatise by anyone writing today.Despite

being serious as cancer, Milosz is also hilarious. His hangman's humor, the best kind, emerges occasionally--a kind of world weariness borne of love. His epitaph for youthful narcissism: "To believe you are magnificent. And gradually to discover that you are not magnificent. Enough labor for one human life." "Learning", pg. 60 Who beyond a certain age cannot relate to this? Milosz is adamant, despite being a believer's believer, puts a sharp emphasis upon the ignorance of human beings and our inability to know very much at all: "You have no idea what is going on in the heads of people who walk by you. Their ignorance is hard to imagine and it can be discovered only by accident. This does not mean you are wise and they are stupid: simply that everyone garners information up to a certain level only, and is unable to reach higher. Space is limited, and they be unaware of what is happening in the next street. Also, time is limited, and events, which for you happened yesterday, for them are sunken in the fog of an indefinite past. Thus TV, print can transform and alter as they please everything that is and has been.

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