Winner of the 1996 Nobel Prize for Literature

Wisława Szymborska

view
with
a grain
of sand

selected poems

B1.1313

By one of Poland's most celebrated poets, a collection of poems remarkable for their graceful lyricism, inventiveness, and wit.

In these 100 poems Wisława Szymborska portrays a world of astonishing diversity and richness, in which nature is wise and prodigal and fate unpredictable, if not mischievous. With acute irony tempered by a generous curiosity, she documents life's improbability as well as its transient beauty. The ruins of Troy; sunlight gleaming on a pewter jug; birds returning in the spring; the Abominable Snowman lurking in the Himalayas; a body-building contest; a symphony; a macabre laboratory experiment with a decapitated dog; a postcard from a sister who has "much to tell"; the discovery of a new star; the irrationality of love; the infinity of π .

Szymborska's poetry brilliantly captures the wonder of existence.

Translated from the Polish by Stanisław Barańczak and Clare Cavanagh Nov. 3, 2000
New Birthday Slie,
Happy Birthday Slie,
What a pleasure to
What a pleasure t

ENHE KAI MAH