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Dictionary of Midnight

by Abdulla Pashew

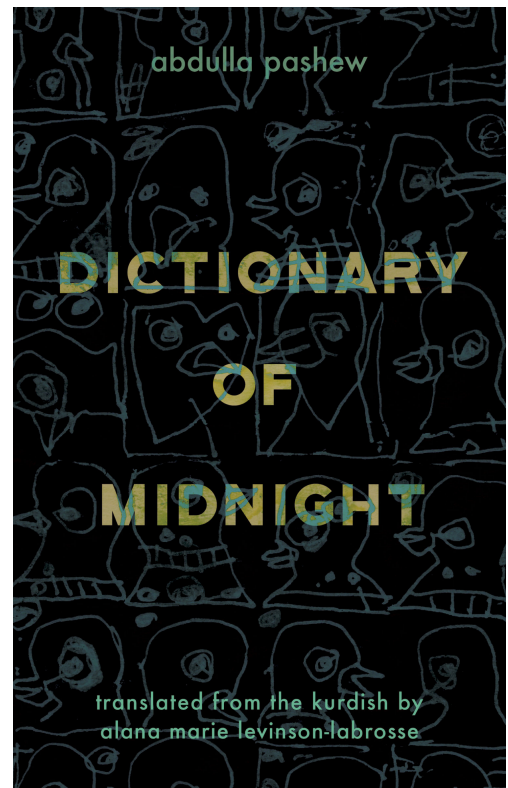
*translated from the Kurdish by Alana Marie
Levinson-LaBrosse*

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Poetry

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Dictionary of Midnight collects almost 50 years of poetry by Abdulla Pashew, the most influential Kurdish poet alive today. Pashew's poems chart a personal cartography of exile, recounting the recent political history of Kurdistan and its struggle for independence. Poet-translator Alana Marie Levinson-LaBrosse worked with the poet to select and translate his most iconic poems, balancing well-known, politically engaged contemporary Kurdish classics like "12 Lessons for Children" with the concise love lyrics that have always punctuated his work.

When he gives readings in Kurdistan, **Abdulla Pashew** draws audiences in the thousands. In addition to his eight volumes of poetry, Pashew is a prolific translator, fluent in Russian and English, responsible for bringing Whitman and Pushkin to Kurdish readership. He holds a master's degree in pedagogy and a doctorate in philology. *Dictionary of Midnight* is the first book-length selection of his poetry to appear in English

Alana Marie Levinson-LaBrosse is a poet, translator, and co-director of Kashkul, a research, translation, and arts collaborative. She has lived and worked in Iraq since 2011, during which time she has dedicated herself to bringing Kurdish poets to English-speaking audiences, including Kajal Ahmad's *Handful of*

Salt. Her poems, translations, and essays have appeared in *The Iowa Review*, *Modern Poetry in Translation*, *The Sewanee Review*, and *World Literature Today*, among others.

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