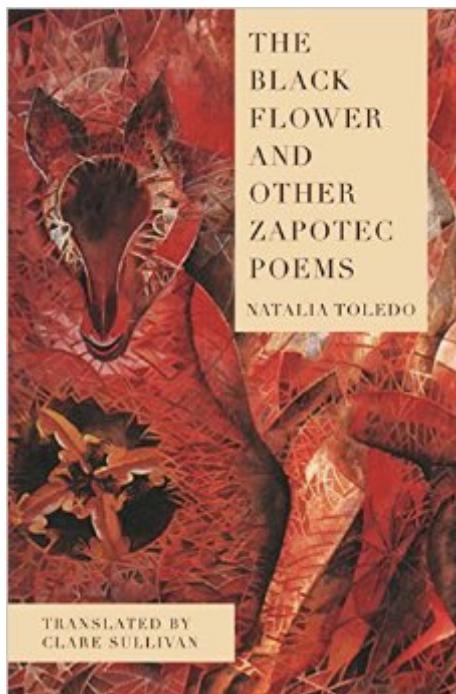


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# The Black Flower And Other Zapotec Poems



## Synopsis

Natalia Toledo's *The Black Flower and Other Zapotec Poems*, with an award-winning translation by Clare Sullivan, describes contemporary Isthmus Zapotec life in lush, sensual detail. In Toledo's poems of love and loss the world's population turns into fish, death is a cricket, and naked women are made of wet magma. *The Black Flower* won the NezualcÃ yotl Prize, Mexico's highest honor for indigenous-language literature, in 2004.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Lost in translation" is a phrase we apply to various realities and experiences. It was even the title of Sofia Coppola's fine 2003 film graced by the actors Bill Murray and Scarlett Johansson. The two are lost in a foreign culture and also lost in themselves. But most of all the phrase is often applied to the difficult task of translating the words and idioms of one language to another. "*The Black Flower and Other Zapotec Poems*" is authored by Natalia Toledo, writing in the Zapotec language, an indigenous language spoken by some of the inhabitants of Juchitan, Mexico. Ms. Toledo, herself, translated her poems into Spanish. Primarily working from the Spanish, Clare Sullivan has rendered fine English versions of the Zapotec/Spanish poems. I first read Clare Sullivan's English translations directly. I found Natalie Toledo's images to be both simple and profound, accessible yet mysterious, sensual but imaginative. I then looked at some of the Spanish translations of the Zapotec to compare them to Ms. Sullivan's English renditions. I thought her translations were honest, direct, beautiful and faithful to the author. Clare Sullivan did not interject herself into the poetry of Natalia Toledo. She honored the author's spirit and imagination. I highly recommend "*The Black Flower and*

Other Zapotec Poems" by Natalia Toledo as translated by Clare Sullivan. Very little, if anything, is lost in translation here.- Rev. A. Paul Reicher Chicago, Illinois

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