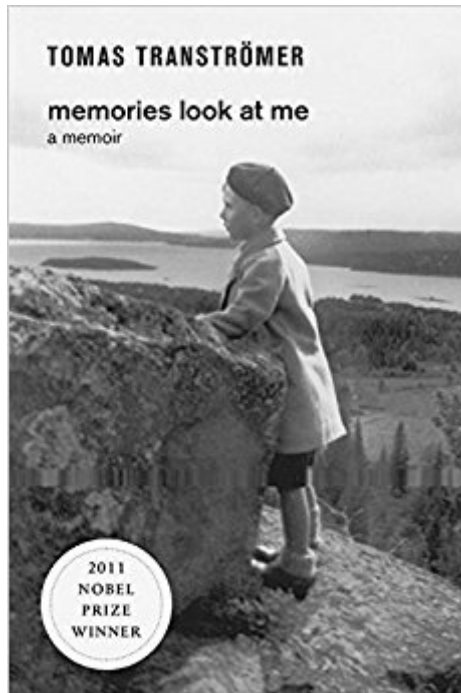




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Memories Look At Me: A Memoir



Synopsis

Tomas Transtr mer s touching memoir. Written a few years after Transtr mer suffered a stroke that left him unable to speak, *Memories Look at Me* is Tomas Transtr mer s lyrical autobiography about growing up in Sweden. His story opens with a streak of light, a comet that becomes a brilliant metaphor for   my life   as he tries to penetrate the earliest, formative memories of his past. This childhood life unfolds itself slowly in eight glistening chapters that gradually reveal the most secret of treasures: how Transtr mer discovered poetry.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

  Like so many great poets before him, Transtr mer is forever reminding us that the world is not what it appears to be; that with mindfulness and close attention, you might get a glimpse of something vast and strange.   - John Freeman, NPR s *Monkey See*  The Nobel prize to Mr. Transtr mer is a momentary defeat for ideology and a great victory for poetry.   - Michael Moynihan, *The Wall Street Journal*  Through his condensed, translucent images, Transtr mer gives us fresh access to reality.   - The Nobel Prize Committee

Robin Fulton, a Scottish poet and longtime resident of Norway, has been translating Transtr mer for over thirty-five years.

In 1993, at the age of sixty-two and two years after a serious stroke, Tomas Transtr mer penned this little memoir about his youth: an only child with a divorced mother, World War II (which, as they

lived in Stockholm, he observed at a distance), museums and libraries, studious pursuit of entomology, grammar school, and then Latin secondary school. It is readily understandable how the serious lad Transtr  mer portrays grew up to be a Nobel laureate poet. Although it has its charms, the truth is that MEMORIES LOOK AT ME is a slight book, probably of little interest except to those who are so enamored with Transtr  mer that they want to devour everything by and about him. I will say that reading it summoned up many memories from my own boyhood -- something of value to no one other than myself. The book closes with a poem entitled "Memories Look at Me". It and the precious cover photograph of six-year-old Tomas surveying a rugged Scandinavian landscape are the most noteworthy things in the book.

This is a lovely little book especially if one is a lover of Tomas Transtromer.. I confess that I wished the book had been longer with more of his interesting and delightfully told memories. It is a joy to enter and experience the childhood of this wonderful man.

Transtromer is quirky and interesting so I enjoyed the book which came early and in great shape.

Beautiful book, written with such honesty and compassion.

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