

## Farideh Hassanzadeh

More than kisses, Letters mingle souls

John Donne

### pen pal romance

We never met each other.

I never saw you in pyjamas ,  
brushing your teeth just before sleep

and I never got a glimpse of your soaking head  
out of the shower as you'd yell:

"I forgot my comb, will ya please give it to me?"

I never saw you limbering up  
early in the morning;  
or at night ,when you are snoring  
and water is oozing out

from the corner of your lips...

I never had the fortune  
to iron your shirt  
or serve you a bowl of hot soup  
and cover you up at nights  
when you catch a cold.

In the cold of midnights  
our bodies never made each other warm;

But imbued with fabulous lies and dreams  
our letters and poems  
more beautiful and innocent than pure truth  
announced us husband and wife  
formally.

And our children were the love songs  
Immortal in the rains of bombs  
Invulnerable, against the curses of Gods .



**Farideh Hassanzadeh** is an Iranian poet, translator and freelance journalist. Her first book of poetry was published when she was twenty-two. Her poems have appeared in the anthologies *Letters to the World*, *Contemporary Women Poets of Iran*, *After Shocks: The Poetry of Recovery for Life-Shattering Events*, (edited by Tom Lombardo), *The Poetry Of Iranian Women* by Sheema Kalbasi, *Tonight, An Anthology of World Love Poetry* by Amitabh Mitra.

She has authored *Eternal Voices: Interviews with Poets East and West* and co-authored *The Last Night with Sylvia Plath: Essays on Poetry*. She has also translated *Selected Poems of T.S. Eliot*, *Federico Garcia Lorca: A Life* by Ian Gibson, *Anthology of Contemporary African Poetry*, *Selected Poems of Marina Tsvetaeva*, *Women Poets of the World*, *Twentieth Century Latin American Poetry*, *Selected Poems of Iaroslav Seifert*, *Pablo Neruda: A Passion for Life*, *Blood of Adonis* by Samuel Hazo, *The Beauty of Friendship: Selected Poems* by Khalil Gibran, *Love Poetry of the World, Classic and Contemporary*, and *Selected Poems* by Blaga Dimitrova. the *Anthology of Contemporary American Poetry* .

Her new book is *Footprints of Cats in Poetry, Stories, Paintings, Politics, Religion, Medicine, Cinema and Science.*"

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