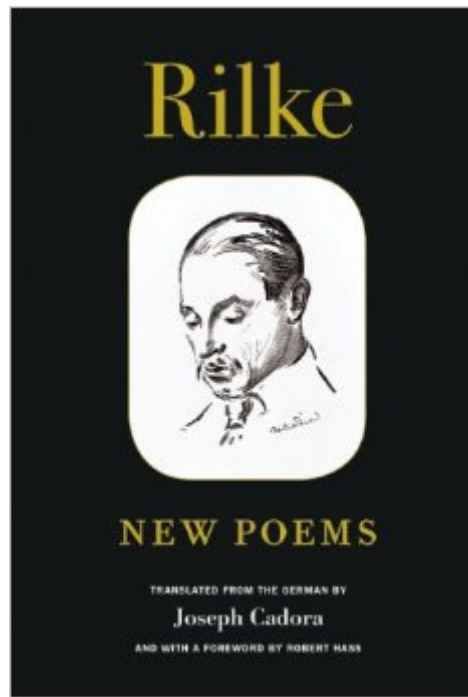


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Rilke: New Poems



Synopsis

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The Panther

From endless passing of the bars
his gaze
has wearied—there is no more it can hold.
There seem to be a thousand bars
always,
and past those thousand bars there is no world.
The soft pad of his brawny, rippling
paw
turns itself in a tightening circle till,
like a mighty dance around a tiny space,
it centers a numb
but still enormous will.
But at times the shades of his pupils rise,
grasping an image he cannot
resist;
through his tense, unmoving limbs it flies,
and within his heart it ceases to exist.

Rainer Maria Rilke (1875–1926) is one of the world's most beloved poets. Joseph Cadora is a guitarist, writer, and translator. He lives in Berkeley, California.

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