

Tela de sevoya / Onioncloth

Myriam Moscona

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The narrator of *Tela de sevoya* travels to Bulgaria, searching for traces of her Sephardic heritage. Her journey becomes an autobiographical and imagined exploration of childhood, diaspora, and the possibilities of her family language: Ladino or Judeo-Spanish, the living tongue spoken by descendants of the Jews expelled from Spain in 1492. Memoir, poetry, storytelling, songs, and dreams are interwoven in this visionary text—this tela or cloth that brings the past to life, if only for a moment, and that looks at the present through the lens of history.

Moscona's book was originally written in Spanish and Ladino, both of which are expertly brought into English by the translation collective Antena, made up of Jen Hofer and John Pluecker. Hofer was the winner of two major prizes for her 2012 translation of Moscona's *Negro marfil/Ivory black*: the Harold Morton Landon Translation Award given by the Academy of American Poets and the PEN Award for Poetry in Translation.

In 2012, *Tela de sevoya* was awarded one of Mexico's most prestigious literary prizes, the Premio Xavier Villaurrutia, whose previous winners include Octavio Paz, Carlos Fuentes, and Mario Bellatin.

PRAISE FOR *Tela de sevoya / Onioncloth*

"*Tela de sevoya* is an absolutely extraordinary text... it successfully joins past and present, life and death, memory and imagination." —Juan Gelman

"Writers have such respect for language that they think, erroneously, that the mother tongue is a harmless organism. *Tela de sevoya* is living testimony to the affective links between childhood and language, to the sense of mystery and refuge radiating from that tongue out toward the personal realm. Readers will find, through this tale of the relationship between a girl and her embittered grandmother, an entirely singular world narrated from the point of view of an 'I' whose range exceeds the territory of any private life." —Mario Bellatin

ABOUT Myriam Moscona

Myriam Moscona is a Mexican writer from a Bulgarian Sephardic family. She is the author of ten books of poetry, including *Las visitantes*, which was awarded the Aguascalientes Poetry Prize. Her 2016 volume of poetry *Ansina* was conceived and written in Judeo-Spanish. She was a 2006 Guggenheim Fellow, and she currently lives in Mexico City with her dog Isaac.

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