

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tombstones

poems
by Don Burness



Don Burness' newest collection of lyrics is a tribute to those who have passed, and also a tribute to the role of language in celebrating the life before the death, in invoking the spirits in this world and the next to carry

forth these individual souls, in fixing a memory that can travel farther than an actual tombstone, and in reflecting the dualism of internal grief and praise. Burness says, "These people come from many lands; they died young and old and all of them enriched me."

"A poem calls, words come from some mysterious and holy place. Words, sounds of words. The color of words and images as well just come, but the moment must be right."

Don Burness was born in Hartford, Connecticut in 1941. He is the author of 23 books, including 11 collections of poetry. His books have been published in Nigeria, Italy, Portugal, and the U.S. He is a correspondent to *Odissea* (Milan, Italy), a paper devoted to cultural and social issues. He lives in Rindge, New Hampshire with his wife Mary-Lou and his dachshunds, Yoshi and Fritz.

Dmitri Danilov

Dima sweet Russian boy
I only knew you for a few days
February in Moscow
1987
a morning together at Kolomenskoe
our conversation stumbled in the snow
your fledgling attempts at English
my halting attempts at Russian
but we easily crossed the boundaries
to landscapes of laughter
smiling affection gaiety
How eager you were to show me
your magical coin collection
your passport to adventure
and distant worlds of the imagination
I left Moscow
and for a few years we corresponded
sending each other gifts
Then I learned that you had died
almost before you had lived
I would never send you a wedding present
I would never meet your children
perhaps you were 17
sweet Russian boy
I will send you coins in my imagination.

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