Zapatista Stories for Dreaming An-Other World

Subcomandante Marcos
Translated by Colectivo Relámpago
Foreword by JoAnn Wypijewski

In this gorgeous collection of allegorical stories, Subcomandante Marcos, idiosyncratic spokesperson of the Zapatistas, has provided “an accidental archive” of a revolutionary group’s struggle against neo-liberalism. For 30 years, the Zapatistas have influenced and inspired movements worldwide, showing that another world is possible. They have infused Left politics with a distinct imaginary—and an imaginative, literary or poetic dimension—organizing horizontally, outside and against the state, and with a profound respect for difference as a source of political insight, not division. Marcos’s inspiring and sometimes Kafkaesque stories bear witness to how a defense of indigenous traditions can become a lever for the construction of a new anti-capitalist and anti-patriarchal world. With commentaries that illuminate their historical, political, and literary contexts and an introduction by the translators, this timeless elegiac volume is perfect for lovers of literature and lovers of revolution.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Subcomandante Insurgente Marcos of the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN) was the Zapatista spokesperson until May of 2014 when the Zapatistas decided that his role had come to an end. While “Marcos” disappeared, he was reborn under a different name: Subcomandante Galeano, again adopting the name of a fallen comrade.

Colectivo Relámpago is a translators’ collective of Zapatista solidarity activists based in Amherst, MA.

JoAnn Wypijewski is a writer and editor based in New York. Her work has appeared in numerous magazines, including CounterPunch, where she writes a monthly column, “Diamonds and Rust.” Her latest book, with Kevin Alexander Gray and Jeffrey St. Clair, is Killing Trayvons: An Anthology of American Violence.

ACCOLADES

“From the beating heart of Mesoamerica the old gods speak to Old Antonio, a glasses-wearing, pipe-smoking beetle who studies neoliberalism, and both tell their tales to Subcomandante Marcos who passes them on to us: the stories of the Zapatistas’ revolutionary struggles from below and to the Left. The Lightning Collective (Amherst, Massachusetts) translates and comments with bolts of illumination zig-zagging across cultures and nations bringing bursts of laughter and sudden charges of hot-wired political energy. It seems like child’s play, and yet it’s almost divine!”

—Peter Linebaugh, author of Red Round Globe Hot Burning