



*The Luba Poems*

Poetry by Colette Inez  
ISBN 978-1-59709-429-0  
Binding: Tradepaper  
Size: 6 x 9; Pages: 80  
Price: US \$17.95  
Pub Date: April 28, 2015



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Wordlove, stars, sex, and a new feminine consciousness inject ample doses of real and surreal adventure into Colette Inez's  
*The Luba Poems.*

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Luba, an invented female consciousness, is someone who loves travel, astronomy, poetry, sex, among other varied interests. She has her private sorrows as well as high kicks and thrills. She's an imagined Colette Inez who is intellectual and sparkles with ever-changing ideas and images, sometimes bordering on the surreal. Luba's eloquent musings and demeanor jolt us from the wondrously ethereal into moments of actuality.

## **Praise for *The Luba Poems***

"Stevensian opulence of imagination reigns in these delicious poems, which offers a smorgasbord of word-delights. I know no contemporary poet whose poems reveal such obvious pleasure in their own existence. Everything Luba looks on turns to song."

— Peter Cooley, Senior Mellon Professorship of English, Tulane University

"In *The Luba Poems* Colette Inez has dreamt a twenty-first century Mr. Cogito. Who is the elusive Luba? She 'gallops past arenas filled with lovers. / They clock her speed.' She 'awakens to a white wormhole / where hymns drift upward like smoke.' As these wild, playful, mysteriously distanced poems whirl through cultures, geographies, religion and the night sky, the irreducible strangeness of human identity deepens to a final 'I.' If *Je est un autre* were a book, this would be it. *The Luba Poems* is a marvelous addition to a compelling oeuvre."

— D. Nurkse, author of *A Night in Brooklyn*

## **Biographical Note**

After graduating from Hunter College in 1961, Belgian-born Colette Inez taught in New York City public schools as well as in Poets in the Schools programs. She has since authored ten books of poetry and a memoir, been published in more than seventy anthologies and textbooks, and read her work in over 150 colleges and universities. Inez also won Guggenheim and Rockefeller fellowships, two NEA and Pushcart Prizes, and many other awards. A long-time faculty member of Columbia University, she has also taught at Cornell, Ohio, Bucknell, and Colgate Universities, instructed at leading writer's conferences, and appeared on public radio and TV.

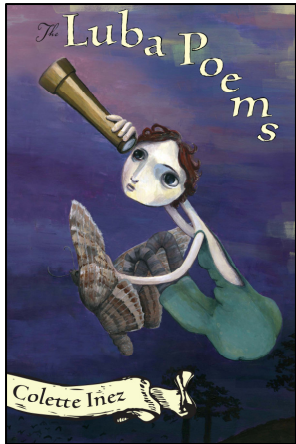
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**More Praise for *The Luba Poems***

“Colette Inez has long been one of my favorite poets. Here she writes movingly of many themes and varied experiences of the fictive Luba, a woman of ‘ever-changing bubbles of ideas and images, a real person, yet imagined and sometimes surreal.’ The atmosphere is scented with ‘blue jazz in riffs’ and ‘ragtime medleys.’ The quest of Luba’s exuberant, endlessly curious and adventurous personality is fired by a sense of deep time. Between moments of the past and fervid anticipation of what the stars might teach us, Luba prevails. The final poem, ‘The Singers,’ echoes the book’s response to music and nature in an impressive performance by a poet who needs no backup.”

—David Ray, author of *Music of Time*

**From *The Luba Poems***

**THE SNOWBOUND CHURCH**

“What’s real?” Luba asks, admitting  
it’s there when she looks

towards a diminished horizon,  
an absence of blue.

Is this the door to vanished birds  
that made their presence known

in disappearing prints?  
Luba awakens to a white wormhole

where hymns drift upward like smoke.  
Her auburn hair glitters with silver.

Streets lose their corners.  
Joy. Joy. Celebrants rise for the anthem,

and the one to whom Luba  
and the congregation pray undulates

from a fourth dimension where stars  
bow down to snow in a tangle of strangeness.