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—— 阅读中国·五彩丛书（第一辑） ——

# WRITING BEFORE SLEEP

睡前书

娜夜 著 Fiona Sze-Lorrain 译

中国出版集团  
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Kaleidosc

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## 图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

睡前书: 英文 / 娜夜著; (法) Fiona Sze-Lorrain 译. —北京:  
中译出版社, 2015. 10

(五彩丛书 第一辑)

ISBN 978-7-5001-4331-4

I. ①睡… II. ①娜… ②菲… III. ①英语—语言读物 ②  
诗集—中国—当代 IV. ① H319.4:I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2015) 第 253834 号

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出版发行 / 中译出版社

地 址 / 北京市西城区车公庄大街甲 4 号物华大厦六层

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总 策 划 / 张高里

策划编辑 / 范 伟

责任编辑 / Natalie 范 伟

封面设计 / 潘 峰

排 版 / 竹叶图文

印 刷 / 北京天来印务有限公司

经 销 / 新华书店

规 格 / 880mm×1230mm 1/32

印 张 / 7.75

字 数 / 181 千

版 次 / 2016 年 1 月第一版

印 次 / 2016 年 1 月第一次

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ISBN 978-7-5001-4331-4 定价: 38.00 元

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中 译 出 版 社

A representative figure of contemporary Chinese woman poetry, *Na Ye* is a Manchurian poet born in Xingcheng, Liaoning province. Currently residing in Chongqing, she grew up in Gansu, northwest China, and graduated from Nanjing University with a degree in Chinese literature. Na Ye began writing poetry during the mid-eighties and worked for many years in media and journalism. The author of multiple books of poetry, including the award-winning *Selected Poems by Na Ye*, she is the recipient of the 2005 Lu Xun Literary Prize. Her work has been translated into many languages, including English, Japanese, Russian, German, and Swedish. With a melancholy emanating from the essence of life, her poetry boldly confronts the limits of a human self, unveiling *a transience of beauty that enhances the value of beauty*.

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# I





## *Life*

I have cherished you  
like cherishing a black candy ball when young  
licked it once  
covered it at once with the candy wrapper  
licked it again  
licking slower and slower  
covering faster and faster  
now just me and the candy wrapper  
I must hold back grief



## *Half-Moon*

crawling up from an ancient love song  
its bass  
a listening  
ear

—half-moon from wheat stacks of reality a pit of days  
bending from an autumn harvester to the land's spine  
a bonfire deep in his heart  
crawling up—

fruits of plucked autumn still hang on branches!

the remaining half-night—  
my right face scratched by wheat awns wait  
let me turn my left face  
toward you