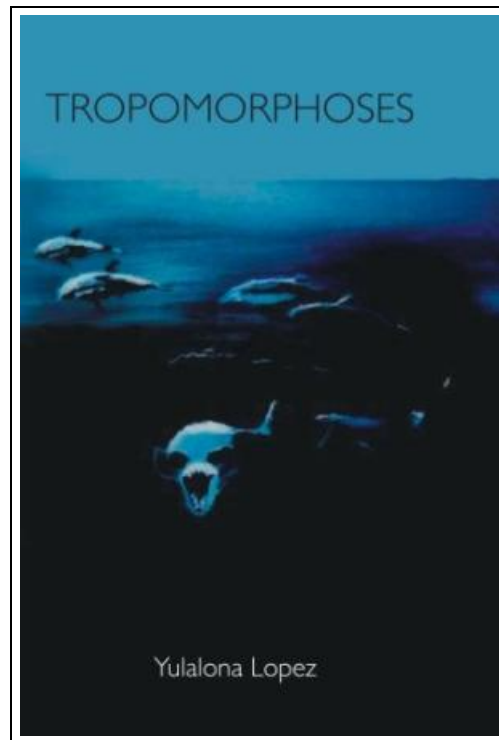


## Tropomorphoses



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Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 64 pages. The poems presented here are an extension to the Metamorphoses, the Latin masterpiece by Publius Ovidius Naso, written in the year 8 A. D. , that recounts a series of transformations of humans into animal, plant, and mineral forms. Ovid's stories range from remote mythic times to the founding of Rome. Poets have long recounted the stories of human beings being changed into other beings. These myths are repeated over and over in many cultures and many times. These myths show us how literally pig-headed humans can be and what just punishments or rewards are meted out; coincidentally, the myths may have helped us to understand other beings by becoming them. For every myth told, however, there are many not told, and these shadow myths track our cultures, appearing only in fragments and allusions. One important difference between these and Ovidian stories is that these myths describe the conversion of mineral, plant and animal forms into human beings; and this conversion results in different kinds of challenges, that result from openings and expansions instead of closings and contractions. I have assembled a few of them here. These new beings are not gods, so much as the offspring of life beleaguered by human interference, symptoms of the changed rhythms of the earth. Their shapes are new; their names new and unknown. Perhaps these new myths can go further in forcing us to evaluate our attitudes and behavior toward nature and other beings. Perhaps they will be ignored. These stories take place in the present and relate the turning of other beings into human form (in fact, the title, Tropomorphoses, means turning forms). The transformations happen everywhere around the world. A tree in India, a dolphin in Japan, a water lily in Brazil, a wolf in Canada, a bear in the United States, a giant fungus in Germany, a deer in Africa, an eagle in...

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