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The Tragedy of Fidel Castro Joao Cerqueira River Grove books ISBN 978-1-938416-16-3 2013 \$14.95

By Irene Koronas Poetry Editor: Wilderness House Literary Review

"...the story was like a painting deprived of perspective. The distant figures oversized and the close figures small, created to befuddle the onlooker, susceptible to free interpretation. Maybe the Creator, like all creators enjoyed breaking free of stereotypes now and then, subverting the rule and breaking with tradition to produce something that only much later — and by the looks of it, a couple of millennia was not enough - would be understood. Divine and human nature were that complex."

Joao Cerqueira uses biblical characters, not in their true sense, his characters relate what the author perceives to be fit the stories characters. A retelling in a surreal way or maybe an intentional way, or maybe just the way the author thinks about people like JFK and Castro. Fidel is Goliath and JFK is David, the next big honcho, big leader who kills with a stone and there is that surreal factor.

"Everything is reduced to the logic of capital – it takes over your souls and you are incapable of conceiving life outside it. But what is the result? A patient that cannot pay for his treatment is left to die, which means that in Capitalism, whoever doesn't have money is not only scorned by most of society but is also condemned to capital punishment..."

The author pushes the "down with" and "up with" propaganda that so many people go for and his Castro is such a character. The story rambles on philosophically and politically and with bible telling. Then there is JFK, the counselor. The two characters fight it out with irony and if the reader likes irony then this is the book for you.

"His presence here clearly indicated that he was insane. But, as they scrutinized the stranger's face, they realized they were unable to find the unmistakable traces of madness, which, though unable to define precisely, they could recognize instantly. Nobody would have dared to consider him entirely sane and responsible for his own actions, but even so, they still couldn't quite classify him as being mad..."

This book is worth a read and I recommend it.