

Magyarázni

Helen Hajnoczky

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The word "magyarázni" (pronounced MUG-yar-az-knee) means "to explain" in Hungarian, but translates literally as "make it Hungarian." This faux-Hungarian language primer, written in direct address, invites readers to experience what it's like to be "made Hungarian" by growing up with a parent who immigrated to North America as a refugee. In forty-five folk-art visual poems each paired with a written poem, Hajnoczky reveals the beauty and tension of first-generation cultural identity.

'Because translation between cultures is always fraught – and yet somehow translate we must – *Magyarázni* explores language and cultural identity in the permeable space fomenting between family and society, word and image initiating us into a new alphabet of lived meaning. In reading we wonder along with *Magyarázni*'s wandering "you," we care and get entangled in the "brambles of your cursive," we too are "made Hungarian."

- Oana Avasilichioaei

'Familiar but out of reach, *Magyarázni* reforms the language of home on the tip of your tongue, a language of knotted cursive and bubbled syntax; folksong and stovetop. Each letter blossoms as a hand-drawn flower and a sputtering drone of spits and pith. *Magyarázni* punctuates every I with a poppy seed, every C with the splintered foil of a solemn treat. Mournful and personal, Magyarázni calls out for the language of family.'

- Derek Beaulieu



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Richard Capps:

Magyarázni can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort to place every word into joy arrangement in writing Magyarázni although doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information can easily drawn you into completely new stage of crucial considering.

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