



TITLE: BUTTERFLY VOYAGE

AUTHOR: BIANCA BOWERS

GENRE: POETRY

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Butterfly Voyage is a shamanic journey that unfurls through a poetic conversation between a spirit mother, Leda, and her daughter, Butterfly...

***I am the mother / who always loved you
Feathers for arms / Tattoos for skin
I was the mother / she was the sin***

Shape shifting into various spirit animals — black dragon, crocodile, raven — Leda slowly but surely guides Butterfly away from her well of self-loathing and toward self-love by healing old emotional wounds, rewriting disempowering narratives, and rediscovering the magic of authenticity.

***“Those wings that look like ribs / are real
The pain is not mistaken, Butterfly”***

REVIEWS

“This collection sits among a body of work that is more conventional. Bowers' Butterfly Voyage, through its poet's voice, encourages us to work against daily chaos and decay and to take each day at a time with a positive mindset. The more surreal poetry features dragons and talking birds. However, most of it, whether grounded in reality or not, has encouraging and didactic elements that uplift and inspire.”

~ Richard Gibney, Editor of Yeah Magazine

"I strongly recommend "Butterfly Voyage" not only to poetry lovers, but to everyone who is not afraid to set on a voyage into their own soul, looking for answers to difficult questions, learning things through self-exploration, finding their true self."

~ Galya Varna, Author of 'Dreams you thought were lost'

"This is truly a magnificent poetry collection full of magic, discovery and wonder."

~ Michael Anderson, Author of 'The Luminous Season'

Poems

I follow her words

like signposts, while I learn
to decipher their meaning

Like a

Pilgrim

I cross borders and oceans, follow the flight path of
ravens

until my urban footprint is unrecognisable

From the lip of the crater

my signal reads SOS

A raven's feather

p

i

v

o

t

s

from the sky

I drive into a forest of crooked trunks

My notebook gets heavier

A heartbeat

A stirring

I dream of a

White Horse

It calls me to explore

spiritual realms and dimensions

through meditation, vision quests and
shamanic journeying

before it fades to black

and I am underground—

a Victorian woman

with heels and hat—

I follow the voice

of a little girl

to a room lit with fireflies

On tiptoes she carefully lifts

a bird cage off a row of shelves

presses it into my chest

Behind the bars, a raven

with thick wings

and emerald eyes nudges my ribs with her beak and
says:

"I have much to teach you

about the language of freedom."

MEET BIANCA



Bianca Bowers is a South African-born, Australian-based writer who has also lived in the UK and New Zealand. She holds a BA in English and Film/TV/Media Studies from the University of Auckland, and has authored five poetry books through her poetry imprint, Paperfields Press.

Her fifth poetry book, *Butterfly Voyage*, reached Number 1 in Amazon's Australian and Oceanian Poetry Category on its release, and Bianca's poems have appeared in film, print anthologies, and online journals.

Bianca's novel, *Cape of Storms*, was published in 2019 through her fiction imprint, Auteur Books. She is currently working on her second novel, *Three Hearts*, as well as a new poetry collection.

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