

# Follow the Rainbow

Selected Poems

JORDAN DEAN

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## DEDICATION

To my family ; the Yobone's in Lae and the Dean's in Alotau  
and to all my readers.



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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## PROLOGUE

Why are we here? I have been thinking about this question for a long time. I sometimes think that we aren't hapless creations put on the earth to eat, talk, work and die. I feel like we were put here for a purpose, to make it better. We are here to change the world and live it a better place than we found it.

We try to be good people and want to contribute something to this nation and world that goes far beyond us; something that lasts longer than the amount of breaths we take.

A common theme throughout this collection of poems is the 'rainbow'. A rainbow is an arch of colors formed in the sky after the rain. It is used metaphorically to depict our hopes, dreams and aspirations.

'Follow the Rainbow' strives to inspire change. They are heartfelt poems about issues that affect our nation and to inspire future leaders of this nation to rise up for the better.

Papua New Guinea needs leaders who use their influence at the right times for the right reasons; who work for the benefit of others, not for personal gain; who handle themselves with their heads and handle others with their heart; who inspire and motivate rather than intimidate and manipulate; who live with the people to know their problems and live with God in order to solve them; who realize their dispositions are more important than their positions; who are honest and follow a moral compass that points in the right direction regardless of the trends.

'O arise all you sons and daughters of this land'. May we follow the rainbow.

**Jordan Dean**

## Follow the Rainbow

Today is your glorious day  
Silent dreams of yesterday  
You've come a long way  
Destiny getting closer  
The struggle is almost over  
You smile with satisfaction  
Parents had their expectation  
But you stood tall like the pine  
This is your time to shine  
To 'reap what you sow'  
Follow the rainbow  
Keep flying  
Keep soaring  
Hold on to your dreams  
Believe in yourself  
You're almost there

## **Dream No More**

Yester-day, we wished  
Upon a shooting star  
For nationhood and democracy  
To choose our own destiny

Yester-night, we dreamt  
Of a free country  
Free expression,  
And Free speech  
A land of gold and diamonds  
Floating on a sea of oil  
Prosperity for all

To-day, we cried  
From injustice and unequal  
Distribution of wealth  
We are the children of pain  
Earth and sky are our fortress

To-night, we shall pray  
For an honest and vibrant leader  
To take us to the Promised Land  
That our forefathers dreamt of.

Sons and daughters of this land  
Wish no more, dream no more!  
Rise up, stand up, speak up!  
Make your forefathers proud  
Let your achievements speak loud

You are the kings and queens of this nation  
Wear your crown with pride  
This is your moment of glory

**Dear Sir**

Dear Sir,  
You broke the law  
When you stole public monies  
That belonged to our children  
Nothing would make me happier  
To raise a glass to your new riches  
But I can't and I won't.

The more you misappropriate;  
The less the money matters,  
Your food doesn't taste as good,  
Your sports car isn't fast enough,  
The view isn't high enough

Finally you shall realize  
That you would trade all the money  
For one night of going to bed  
Where you don't have to worry  
About the law coming after you.

## Once Upon A Time (Mama)

Once upon a time  
Mama had big and firm breasts  
A lusty Australian sucked all the milk  
Now her weak breasts hang empty  
Our minerals gone!

Once upon a time  
Mama had bushy pubic hair  
A horny Asian shaved it smooth  
Now she is hairless and bare  
Our forests gone!

Once upon a time  
Mama wore a grass skirt  
Now she is stripped naked  
Exploited and raped  
Our money gone!

Once upon a time  
Her sons, future chiefs  
Were warriors with strong penis  
Now just gays and pole dancing  
Screwed doggy style for a million kina  
Our future gone!

Cry, my people  
Mama is no more  
We are no more!

## Economic Depression

*I was blind, I didn't see*

That the LNG project was is just a liability  
Global prices were falling on commodity  
But we went ahead with the ambitious plan  
That was when the deficit budget began

*I was blind, I didn't see*

That our kina was slowly falling  
And our foreign reserves were declining  
Now, we buy rice and tinned fish on credit  
Yet we keep quiet and allow all this bullshit

*I was blind, I didn't see*

That we couldn't afford the loans  
Our heart is with Dow Jones  
Keep fooling us with GDP figures and fractions  
I really think we are in an economic depression

*Now I am not blind, now I see*

## A Circus

Our haus tambaran is a circus  
Full of immature monkeys  
Calling each other names  
Playing number games

A gorilla is the king of the circus  
He keeps giving golden bananas  
To the monkeys in government  
And they grow pot bellies

Monkeys in the opposition  
Led by a chimpanzee  
Are fed with scraps  
What a show!

We the people suffer  
And gossip silently  
*Not our monkeys!*  
*Not our circus!*

## South's Power

A favorite son from the South  
Became the PM illegally  
Five years of tyranny  
In corridors of power  
Student's boycotted classes  
Petitioned him to step down  
Powerful he remained  
Dictatorship is the paradise  
Built for his tribesmen to rule  
South's power they boasted

Out to the streets  
Students went protesting  
Pilot's grounded their aircraft  
Police sent with orders and allowances  
To arrest the students and pilots

MPs paid to have the numbers  
On the floor of parliament  
A 'Vote of No Confidence' martyr  
Crushing the Oppositions hopes

We have a new flag  
And a new dream  
For our country to be free  
Rise up, children of this land  
Remove the South's tyrant  
And make him power-less!

## Sepik Pride

Sepik man,  
You beat your chest  
With so much ego  
Like the mighty pukpuk  
Perhaps mere quirks  
Of political history  
Your brags intrigue me  
Pride is your weakness

Just how important do you  
Imagine yourself to be?

Maybe not so much  
As you would like to think

You didn't invent the airplane;  
Nor launch the rocket,  
Nor design the satellite,  
Nor discover wireless Internet,  
Nor build the computer,  
Nor engineer the tallest tower

You wear a crown without glory  
A king without a kingdom  
Now your pride is ash to my feet.

## **A lawyer murdered his wife**

a lawyer murdered his wife  
said it was a mistake  
with another man she was having fun  
in her mouth, he emptied the gun  
told the judge that he has a child  
and a business to mind  
even produced a medical report  
that he has a problem with his bowels  
and medically unfit to be in court  
charges were overturned  
on a technicality

mother still weeping  
father still mourning  
their only beloved daughter  
was brutally murdered  
but justice was not served

## **I Saw the Morning**

I saw the morning  
It was shattered by a police siren  
He only stole a hundred kina cause he was hungry

I saw a mother  
She was selling ice blocks  
Praying that her children get a good education and future

I saw a father  
Laboring in the burning sun  
Hoping that he will dance in the moonlight one day

I saw the children  
Sons and daughters on this land  
How they wept, how they bled, how they died

I saw the evening  
It was jolly with corporate dinners  
Celebrating the release of a corrupt parliamentarian  
Cause he could afford the bail and expensive lawyers

Do you ever wonder?  
Is there a Haven in the sky?

We walk on the same earth  
We breathe the same air  
We live under the same sun  
We sleep under the same moon  
We dream under the same sky  
We look up at the same stars

If there, really is a Haven above  
We sure could use some love

## Tax Everything

Tax my house  
Tax my cigarettes  
Tax my drinks  
Tax my rice and tinned fish  
Tax my superannuation  
Tax my savings and pay  
I am working for peanuts anyway!

Tax my water  
Tax my play box  
Tax my electricity  
Tax my plane ticket  
Tax my vehicle  
Tax my petrol and gas  
Find other ways to tax my ass!

Tax my clothes  
Tax my medicines  
Tax my pig  
Tax my dog  
Tax my wife  
Tax everything I have

Tax my coffin  
Tax my headstone  
Tax my grave  
Even the soil in which I am buried

And when I am gone  
My inheritance remains  
With the Public Curator  
To be taxed some more!

## Footprints

Somewhere in the sands of time,  
I found your footprints  
Fragile memories of yesterday  
A fleeting smile  
A whispered promise  
A pledge everlasting  
A passion once penned  
On tear-stained pages  
Words left unspoken  
And set adrift on the ocean

The harshness of reality  
Waves efface your footprints  
A love once written  
Upon the sand  
Now an empty space

## **We should talk**

You looked so worried today  
And really wanted to talk  
You must be going through a lot  
But, I would rather walk

You've got a lot on your plate right now  
I don't want to be that very nutritious broccoli  
That you scrape off the plate  
To get to the pork

---

## **Red Wine**

Full of the joys of spring  
Sweet fruity red wine  
Made from juicy and ripe  
Plums and blackberry  
It shines in the glass  
Makes me feel like dancing  
I love red wine

## **I left my heart in Alotau**

i left my heart in Alotau  
high up at Middle Town, it calls to me  
halfway to the moon  
early morning jogs by the quay  
my hometown by the bay

my love waits there in Alotau  
above the blue and windy sea  
a golden moon will shine for me  
when I return home

## Lonely Evening Stroll

Trees dance in the wind  
A light drizzle of cold rain  
Falls from the sky  
The smell of wet grass  
Bite at my senses  
As I stroll through Nature Park

Alone on this Sunday evening  
Most people are at home  
Watching the news on TV  
Or visiting relatives

I am alone,  
Just the trees and me,  
The light drizzle,  
And the smell of wet grass

## Angel

Straightened hair? Check.  
Make up? Check  
High heels? Check  
Sexy Lady? Double check.  
She looks in the mirror  
'Who are you?'  
She asks her reflection  
Perfection personified.

She walks with such grace,  
All marvel at her lovely face  
She is an angel.  
My heart aches.  
Love is blind,  
And so am I.

## **Beaten Wife**

The scars on her face will heal  
But the scars in her heart  
Bleed with pain  
She cries in vain  
Too afraid to speak  
Against a violent husband  
In the darkness  
Lying there broken,  
Bruised and bloody,  
She slowly dies

---

## **Profile Picture**

Staring at your profile picture  
Your beautiful, brown eyes  
Looked deep like the Pacific Ocean  
With silver lights that sparkled and danced  
And your sweet smile made me  
Feel like I was walking in quicksand  
You looked like a nightmare  
Dressed up like a day dream  
And I blindly send you  
A friend request on Facebook

## Woman

Chained inside these brick walls  
Her silence speaks loud  
She screams to the world  
But no one is listening  
Cause she's a woman

But she's a dreamer under the silent moon  
She could be our savior in the haus tambaran  
She could be our angel in the court rooms  
She could be our healer in the hospitals  
She could be our sunshine in the boardroom  
She could be our rainbow in the storm

She could be our mother  
She could be our sister  
She could be our daughter  
She could be our niece  
She could be our aunt  
She deserves our respect!

## **A Poor Man's Son**

You were born at a private hospital  
I was delivered under a village hut  
We both saw the light of dawn

You went to an international school  
I attended a run-down public school  
We both learnt how to spell 'pig'

You woke up from a cosy bed  
I woke up from a mat that bubu wove  
We both had a thousand coloured dreams

You wore the latest jeans from Vision City  
I wore faded jeans from the second-hand  
We both covered our nakedness

Now, I wear a tuxedo suit  
And drive the latest car  
While you're digging a drain  
An Asian screaming at you

I climbed the rainbow  
In search of the stars  
While you were having fun  
Wasting your dad's money  
Sorry my brother!

## **Meri Nambis (Tok Pisin)**

Taim yu tromwei tok pisin  
Cloud sa ron away  
Rain sa pundaun  
Thunder sa pairap  
Ples sa guria  
Na tidal wave sa kamap

Meri nambis  
Yu stealim lewa blo mi  
Tasol papa mama  
Laikim hundred thousand

## **Pasim Maus (Tok Pisin)**

Man tokim meri  
Yu luk olsem Madonna  
Na friend blo yu  
Luk olsem Lady Gaga

Meri tokim man  
Yu luk olsem anis  
Na tupla fren blo yu  
Luk olsem grasshopper  
Na bush mosquito

Fire blo man die  
Sapos yu nogat gutpla  
Toktok lo mekim  
Pasim maus blo yu!

**Haiku: Crocodile**

A brown, floating log  
I saw up the Fly River  
Was a crocodile

---

**Haiku: Smoking**

They say smoking kills  
Cancer will kill you quicker  
Suffocate your lungs

---

**Haiku: My Girlfriend**

Beautiful sunrise  
Goddess on a mountaintop  
So as my girlfriend

---

**Haiku: Babies**

Babies are like dogs  
They cry, bite, pee and pekpek  
Such a stinky mess

---

**Haiku: Tequila**

Thousand stars twinkle  
Blame it on the Tequila  
Now you feel dizzy

---

**Haiku: Mangi Sepik (Tok Pisin)**

Mangi blo Sepik  
Esi lo paitim brostron  
Yu no go lo mun

---

**Haiku: Member (Tok Pisin)**

Member drive lo kar  
Ol pipol kalap lo bus  
Nogat luk save!

---

**Haiku: Pukpuk (Tok Pisin)**

Diwai mi lukim  
Silip antap lo wara  
Em wanpla pukpuk

---

**Haiku: Ino Gutpla Frog (Tok Pisin)**

Actin swit sixteen  
Sanap na stylin gut tru  
Ino gutpla frog!

---

**Haiku: Tumbuna Pasin (Tok Pisin)**

Pisin karai lo nait  
Lapun man spetim kauwar  
Tumbuna pasin

**Haiku: Grassroot (Tok Pisin)**

Mi wanpla blo ol  
Nogat save, nogat wok  
Ass blo kunai grass

---

**Haiku: Ples (Tok Pisin)**

Kol win e singsing  
Na kokonas e danis  
Mi wari lo ples

---

**Haiku: Wantok (Tok Pisin)**

Kam bek lo Aussie  
Stylin English blo yu  
Mi faul ya wantok

---

**Haiku: Extension Grass (Tok Pisin)**

Pasim extension  
Meri ya gat longpla grass  
Em luk olsem mop

---

**Haiku: Mama Garamut (Tok Pisin)**

Mama garamut  
Em e kam seksek long hap  
Peles e guria

### **Haiku: Movie Star (Tok Pisin)**

Tattoo kilim yu  
Lo nek, bros, han, tais na ass  
Yu mas movie star!

---

### **Haiku: Shooting Star**

I wish on a star,  
And I wonder if you wish  
On the same bright star

For I miss you and  
Wish on my bright, shooting star  
To see you again.

**Tanka: Look for the Rainbow**

Listen my people  
You know there's a better way  
Forget all the pain  
Look for the rainbow inside  
Fly up high like a kumul

---

**Tanka: Memories**

Do you remember  
That day we spent on the beach?  
Lovers in the sun  
Those promises that we penned  
I wish we could turn back time

**Quinzaine: Poor Man**

Poor man was bashed by police  
Can you give him food?  
Why beat him?

---

**Quinzaine: Girl from Hula**

I met a girl from Hula  
Does she eat mumu?  
Why bride price?

---

**Quinzaine: Brother from the Highlands**

My brother from the highlands  
Have you seen a shark?  
Can you swim?

---

**Quinzaine: Brother from the Coastlands**

My brother from the coastlands  
Do you have many pigs?  
Why one wife?

**Limerick: Meri Sunam**

O Meri Sunam, you look like a player  
You were born to be a heart breaker  
And you dress to kill  
Dating you was a thrill  
You are just another heart-slayer

---

**Limerick: Fancy Life**

I dream of a fancy life  
And a slim, pretty wife  
Lots and lots of money  
A mansion for my honey  
Now my life is full of strife

---

**Limerick: Street Girl**

I met a girl in the street at night  
And everything felt so right  
Loved her to the moon  
Why did I marry too soon?  
Before anything happened, I took flight

**Limerick: Delicate Way**

Allow me to tell you if I may  
My heart is no longer astray  
Don't let me go  
Cause if you do  
I'll be hurt in a delicate way

---

**Limerick: Proposal**

I know this may sound wrong  
We were friends for too long  
I go down on my knee  
Will you marry me?  
To you my heart belongs

---

**Limerick: Son of Milne Bay**

Only when a true son of Milne Bay  
Becomes the Prime Minister one day  
Pigs will grow wings and fly  
Money will fall from the sky  
No more complains about your pay!

### **Sijo: Grandfather's Words**

Grandfather said/ walk on that path/  
    towards the dawn/ of the first light;  
Smell the roses/ along the way/  
    but beware/ of the sharp thorns;  
Always listen/ to that voice within/  
    keep the faith/ and trust in yourself.

---

### **Sijo: Keep Flying**

Little dove/ spread your young wings/  
    fly with the wind/high in the sky  
Be yourself/ find a rainbow/  
    inside every storm/ and keep flying  
You will find/ bright sunshine and light/  
    at the end/of the storm

---

**Rispetto: T'sak Valley (Enga)**

Twelve hour bus ride all night long  
Home is a thousand miles up the highway  
Up in the mountains where I belong  
Mumu pork and kaukau of yesterday  
Cold, frosty sunrise in Mt. Hagen  
My journey to T'sak Valley began  
I dance in the Sugar Loaf mist and rain  
T'sak Valley blood runs in my vein

---

**Rispetto: Miss You**

I still remember the day and the weather  
Tears in your eyes as you walked away  
Maybe, we weren't meant for each other  
Deep inside, I still miss you every day  
Like the deserts needs the rain  
Only you can ease all this pain  
Thought the romance would never end  
Now, I pretend that you're just a good friend

## Sonnet I: Broken Glass

Holding on to you like a broken glass  
I am alone in my bedroom tonight  
Every touch cuts much deeper none-the-less  
Forget the pain and tears, it feels so right

If you could see it through my tearful eyes  
You'd know I tried my best to change it all  
If only you could take back your goodbyes  
I try to stand up every time I fall

In my bed listening to the falling rain  
Time will ease all this pain for me one day  
Someday, I will find a princess again  
I'm sorry for making you walk away

No more running away from my shadow  
Now I see clearly and all the stars glow

## **Sonnet II: Sons and Daughters of this Land**

To all the sons and daughters of this land  
Together, we will follow the rainbow  
Let our voice be heard in the hiri wind  
And where ever the pacific winds blow

Together, we can change our destiny  
Together, we will stand tall side by side  
Together, we will sail in this journey  
Together, we will fly our flag with pride

To all the children of this great nation  
Let us prove the world we are capable  
Let us be proud, we all are champions  
Hand in hand, nothing is impossible

This is our motherland, this is our home  
Our dream of a glorious, new day has come

### **Sonnet III: Puppets**

Behind locked-up offices, and the secrecy  
A delicate plan set, carefully spun  
Cunning words combined with bibliomancy  
Our forests were sold to Asians for fun

Agreements signed, their shares deposited  
More jobs, they say in the media release  
Yet the kina drops, prices inflated  
We know it is a white-collar disease

Our leaders are puppets in miniature  
Our haus tambaran is a mere circus  
Puppets dance to the melody for sure  
And play games in parliamentary caucus

For too long, we've entertained corruption  
Don't vote for puppets in the election

## Sonnet IV: Returning Home

Pearl of the ocean, Fergusson Island  
Though I may roam the streets of Port Moresby  
I will return to my humble homeland  
Reminisce all my childhood days gone by

Beyond the rainbow and beyond the skies  
A road descends, golden trail of the past  
The blue horizon flashes before my eyes  
Homeward bound, relish childhood dreams at last

I return to the place that knows my name  
A place of comfort, free from all the pain  
My eyes sparkle brighter than a flame  
There is warmth and sunshine after the rain

I pray that we will prosper one day  
If we let the Almighty lead the way

## Sonnet V: Broken Rainbow

Quietly staring out through the window  
Heart torn to a thousand brittle pieces  
Her world crashes down like a broken rainbow  
Longing for his warm and loving embraces

He's a silent killer behind her back  
Returning home late, beats her with clenched fists  
For no good reason at all like a jerk  
Leaving ugly scars and marks on her wrists

Her husband doesn't seem to care anymore  
She asks why his heart became cold and grey  
With tears in her eyes, she's hurt to the core  
Her love betrayed, she can no longer stay

One day she'll find someone who won't hurt her  
Who will wipe her tears and lend his shoulder

## **Sonnet VI: Saviour**

If I'm the leader of our great nation  
Poverty and hunger will be no more  
I shall remove all forms of corruption  
Our land won't be sold cheaply like a whore

I'll always listen to my peoples cries  
Deliver services and employment  
And reduce accommodation prices  
Promote sustainable development

I shall not serve for any glory and fame  
Nor award contracts to men of my tribe  
I shall lead the way like a burning flame  
I shall not entertain any tip or bribe

This is my heartfelt dream, hope and prayer  
For a saviour; true servant and leader

## Ode to our Forefathers

Our forefathers breathed out fire  
Pillar by pillar, they built a new empire  
With pride, they set our spirits ablaze  
And left our colonizers amazed

Our forefathers built up a city  
And named it Port Moresby  
They engraved our constitution  
Their words gave us ambition

Our forefathers are our inspiration  
For unity throughout the nation  
To work towards greater things  
Their sacrifices gave us wings

Our forefathers left a legacy  
To sail the rough seas to our destiny  
Yes, we can touch the clouds above  
Together as one people, one love

## **Ballad: Kasaibwaibwaileta**

*(Dedicated to my grandfather: Tony Bokealei)*

There was once a man full of sores  
Who lived alone on an island  
His name was Kasaibwaibwaileta  
Every night he played his magical flute

The palm trees swayed  
The seagulls danced  
And the ocean mourned  
To the melodies of his flute

On a nearby island lived a king,  
His three daughters' hearts yearning  
To be the lucky one to marry  
The mysterious flautist

Two elder princesses set sail  
In search of the flautist  
Upon reaching shore, they retreated  
The placed stank like a dead corpse

The youngest princess set sail  
She found the flutist, ignored the smell  
Nursed his sores, bathed and clothed him  
The sore body was just a shell

He emerged from the shell  
A prince with sparkling eyes  
That danced in the moonlight  
Elder princesses hearts, ached like hell  
In the moonlight, he played the flute

For his beautiful wife and princess  
With the most gracious heart  
And their days were filled with happiness

## Look Closely

Look closely  
You will see  
A grandmother trying  
To make ends meet by selling buai  
Carrying the world on her shoulders  
Why chase her to her death?  
Do you see her?

Look closely  
You will see  
A boy who didn't complete his education  
Due to financial constraints  
No prospect of employment  
Why do you beat him up for a lousy amount?  
Do you see him?

Look closely  
You will see  
A young lady  
From a broken family  
With no means of income  
Frequents the clubs for clients  
To put food on the table  
Why do you call her names?  
Do you see her?

Look closely  
You will see  
A father of three  
Surviving on a shoe-string budget  
Living on the wings of a prayer  
Why are we so selfish?

Do you see him?

Look closely  
You will see  
A female doctor  
Who dedicated her life to serve the people  
Yet was raped in her own house  
Why rape a humble servant of God?  
Do you see her?

Look closely  
You will see  
University students trying to protest  
But shot at by unruly cops  
Where is the freedom our founding fathers  
Engraved in the Constitution?  
Do you see them?

Look closely  
You will see  
Dedicated civil servants  
Who serve with their hearts up their sleeves  
While clowns in the haus tambaran  
Play frolicking power games  
Why is there so much corruption?  
Do you see us?

Look closely  
Look harder  
Look deeper  
You just might see  
The world from our eyes

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jordan Dean was born on June 12, 1984 at Fergusson Island, Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea. He did his primary & secondary education in Alotau, PNG.

He first studied for a Bachelor of Arts (Literature & Journalism) at the University of Papua New Guinea. He withdrew from the course in second year, 2004 and decided to take accounting and management.

He currently works with the Papua New Guinea (Research), Science and Technology Secretariat. He is the author of *Tattooed Face: A collection of Poems* (2016).

For comments or further information, he can be contacted on email:

[jdean.tony@gmail.com](mailto:jdean.tony@gmail.com) / [jdean.hsip@gmail.com](mailto:jdean.hsip@gmail.com)

