

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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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

Starring 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).

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