

Foreword

This collection of poems echoes and symbolizes the birth of my Canadian identity and experiences correlated with it. Poetry forces me to look and think twice not just over the poems themselves, but at myself, the world, life, and people around me. Poetry to me is an enriching medium in which I can wrap up all of my natural and distilled thoughts, microscopic experiences, and grand narratives while achieving a powerful sense of fulfillment. My existence as a naïve poet has grown between my two homes in which I have transitioned my writing from a right-to-left beginning in the east to a left-to-right ending in the west. Through poetry I find my truest expression of soul, self, and thought. The poetic representation is situated in my understanding, retelling and reliving of my pivotal experiences and cross cultural encounters. In my attempts to retell through poetry and the narrative unpacking of this poetry, I engage in reliving those particular moments in that particular time and place. By metaphorically connecting each of those moments to my poetry, I dwell in the in-between spaces filled with moments of full consciousness where newness and possibility come into the world. My inspiration comes from my second home Canada, the Canadian people, my ‘secret and sacred’ stories, and my graduate course readings. Behind every poem is a role which I embody as a Canadian; a mother, a researcher, a vulnerable being, and simply as a writer. In this collection I give an intimate spin to academia where my process of becoming who I am and the fluidity of my identity are highlighted and built upon. As a parent researcher the themes I seek to explore and present to my readers include the human complexities quilted within diversity, the multiplicity of Canadian identity, the quality of equality, the significance of ethical values and morality, and the challenges associated with raising Canadian children with multiple identities, languages, nationalities and values in this highly globalized era of identity politics. My hope for these poems is to inform Canadian educators and community members about one of the many ways to live a dignified coexistence and weaving together reciprocal relationships beyond the classification of human race.