



Earth

Is

Breathing

**A Collection of Poems and Photographs
By Anton Elohan Byers and Sierra Byers**

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***A work of arts in cooperation with
and appreciation of our Earth***

Poetry by Anton Elohan Byers

Photography by Sierra Byers

A word on process:

The poetry and photography contained in this compilation was created separately over the course of the years from 2005 to 2014. To match each poem with a photo brought a depth of expression we only realized upon embracing each piece as a part of a larger whole and then seeking the piece that was missing. What was revealed by finding larger and fuller visions and expressions through cooperation was its own unexpected and immensely fulfilling reward.

Earth Is Breathing

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Foreword

Anton

Art is our deepest hidden obsession and to create it together is like revealing that secret to ourselves to as if we didn't know it was in us, both astonished and amused by the obviousness we have unearthed--like a child that finds endless joy in making itself laugh. Becoming that child together in the joy of creating reveals an ever-rising river of energy erupting into the now, the sensation of intertwining and merging flows glorious beyond words or images.

Sierra's photography could seem a synthesis between the simple and the profound, but it needs no effort to be that—she sees with the eyes of the soul of curiosity. Her talent is in her artistic honesty as much as anything, and to me there is nothing more vibrant and soulful.

Earth was not chosen by us as a subject—it is our orientation in all things and is the spawning ground of everything we do. It chose us the moment it was born like it chose you. To express our love for it is a privilege beyond measure.

Anton Elohan Byers

March 2014

Foreword

Sierra

Nature is my first teacher.

Its natural beauty and smells have taken my eyes and heart on magnificent journeys.

Its simple treasures captivate me and inspire my simple photographs.

I do not own or use a professional camera, equipment or photographic software.

All of my photographs in this book have been taken with a cell phone camera during my outings in nature.

I do not set out with an intention to capture anything specific on any given day.

I do not spend time thinking about lighting, setting a shot up or perfection.

I'm drawn by resonance with something and simply attempt to capture it in that moment.

This creative collaboration with my husband Anton's nature-inspired poetry has given a voice to some of my photographs.

Nature is still my forever teacher.

Sierra Byers
March 2014

About Us

Anton is a writer, poet, artist and catalyst for easing the human condition and personal and spiritual growth through alignment with our natural design. His background and education include anthropology, meditation, esoteric arts, bodyworking, culinary arts, and natural fitness and nutrition. These components inform his nature-based primary orientation for perception, wellness and expression. More of his developing work can be found [here on his blog](#).

Sierra is a photographer and healing arts professional who has studied Hatha Yoga, meditation, Buddhism and natural health. She is currently writing a nature-themed children's book, is a whale research volunteer and remains an activist for no captivity.

Nature is a poem...

*“Now the ears of my ears awake and
the eyes of my eyes are opened. “*

--e.e.cummings

I Am The Stars' Tomorrows

I am the dreams
 of the stars' tomorrows
a fountainhead
 on the tip of a pin
the moon, my heart,
 a nightly reminder
I live in the slipstream
 of eternal spin
I am the transient,
 lucid form
a rush of liquid silence
 erupting from the dark
nascent matter and emotions
 of universal purpose
a twisting, looping, glowing
 golden arc
some day I will leave this terran soil,
 but I'll be back again
as a twinkle in the starlit sky,
 as the shapes of love that change,
 but never end

~Anton Elohan Byers



Touching Hidden Places

What brings me home
 is walking through the bones
of red-brown beauty,
 canyon's embraces
hidden flowers
 snaking spaces

why have we not
 traveled this space
together
 in orgasmic haste as
hearts open,
 seeking
 upturned
 inquisitive
 sun-kissed faces

between the rocks
 where water races
through tiny green
 geometric traces
to pour out through
 a whole
 some call god's
 secret embraces

that's me and you
 face to face
cheek to cheek
 touching hidden places
this brings me home
 touching
 erupting
 hidden places

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