

Paper Wings
&
Iron Keys

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G.T.Nicolaas

Other books in this series

1. Between first light and ashes
2. Twelve Moons And A Heartbeat
3. Paper Wings & Iron Keys
4. The Year I Met Myself
5. Unapologetically Me
6. Lantern Heart

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For those who've ever taken a leap without checking the landing,
thank you for proving that sometimes falling is the only way to fly."

This book is for you

Foreword

Trust is a curious thing. It asks us to leap while whispering that the ground may not be there when we land. It's lighter than paper and heavier than iron, fragile as a moth's wing and steadfast as a locked door. That is why *Paper Wings* and *Iron Keys* feels to me like a key in itself. Across these volumes, I have tried to follow the trails of love, grief, wonder, and hope, always circling one quiet, persistent question: what do we hold, and what do we let go? I'll admit, I didn't always know the answer. Often I wrote to discover it, to test it, to see whether it could stand on the page. Again and again, I found myself arriving at trust, sometimes shattered, sometimes whole, but always waiting to be reckoned with. To write these poems was an act of faith. To send them into the world was another. I trusted that words, however fragile, could bear the weight of what I felt, and that you, whoever you are, might find your own reflection somewhere inside them. Every time you've turned a page in this series, you've entered into that trust with me. And that, dear reader, has been the greatest gift. Perhaps that is why I have kept going: because paper wings, though delicate, still know how to ride the air, and iron keys, though heavy, still know how to turn what resists us most. Somewhere between the two is where these poems live, between breaking and enduring, between letting go and holding on. In these pages you'll find not just poems, but pieces of my own bravery, small attempts to leap, to open, to believe. My hope is that they offer you the same: that they hand you both a wing and a key, something to carry and something to unlock. May these poems remind you that even the lightest wings can carry you, even the heaviest keys can open doors you never knew were waiting, and that sometimes, the door we open is the one inside ourselves

Garry Thijs Nicolaas

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