

Introduction

I declare that I am a powerful woman. This is the first time that I've ever recognized my divinity. *From My Eye to the Sky* is an homage to my mind, to the people out here doing the good work, and to liberation—liberation from capitalism, from white supremacy, and from all the “-isms” and “-phobias” that exist in this world. But liberation *from* something must mean a liberation *to* something.

Sankofa is, a word in Twi that means “go back and get it.” The Akan Sankofa bird reaches its long neck behind itself to reach an egg. Sankofa means to look toward the ancestors and retrieve the lessons they taught us, leaving behind their mistakes, and always improving our ways of living. My liberation gazes toward the sky, toward a free Africa, and unfettered, radical love.

J.V. Sadler

Daring to be vulnerable, while writing, I placed a slice of myself into each poem. This is by far my most vulnerable work yet. So, I thank you for taking this journey with me. I hope that those who read *From My Eye to the Sky* are inspired to create, build community, and keep fighting the good fight.

From My Eye to the Sky

We shall be free

. . . one day

We will walk on water

. . . one day

We can sing our mothers' songs

as she prepares collard for supper

Maybe lay on her lap and tell

her all our troubles

I'll tell stories to my grandbabies [If I ever have children]

of a liberated Africa

and sip on mango nectar

Ichor from a cardboard carton

Dreams of Mutulu, Assata, Malcolm, and Huey

Dreams of finally livin'—I mean *real* livin'

J.V. Sadler

Finally seeing what all this hoopla these birds call
flyin'
is all about