

### KADUPUL FLOWER

Kimberly Vargas Agnese  
203 x 152mm, 74 pages, \$16.95

For Kimberly Vargas Agnese, 'social-environmental justice' isn't a buzz word, it's a way of life. In this collection of poetry, she demonstrates her care for the natural world and for the people who inhabit it.

*Kadupul Flower* explores the concepts of human and environmental dignity, through some of the most pressing concerns of our time, including our interconnection with nature, migrant realities, economy, ancestors and family (her daughter's perceptions are a constant throughout the collection ... her possible future).

She jumps right into this with the collection's opening piece, 'Orange is Symbolic of Wirikuta'. Along the way we meet various characters from Fresno, in the Central Valley of California, where she lives: checkout ladies, truckers, street cleaners, bar flies, farmers, and young bandana wearing men with repressed passions. They are represented by prophetic words of wisdoms often yet to be revealed: 'A caballo regalado, no se le ven los dientes' (don't look a gift horse in the mouth).

In a reductionist society that boils nature down to dollars and cents (or as she writes 'a kind of gold that wilts when cut'). Vargas Agnese invites readers to peel back the price tags and re-discover the meaning of worth. 'If we can't be a little in awe of the blood pumping through our veins, I wonder if we're going to be able to notice the cyclical pattern of rain,' she says.

The title comes from the flower that blooms nocturnally, and whose petals wilt before dawn. This is evocative stuff, from a true listener to, and contributor to, her community. Reading this you feel as though you are walking the very

streets and hills of Fresno and glimpsing the truly 'priceless': 'In Mexico, that cactus grows between tree branches and rock crevices'.

This is as great as any poetry, music or art you will encounter this year. It is Frida Kahlo, mixed with James Joyce, ranchera and permaculture.

Vargas Agnese is a special educator and helps to rewild Meadow Arc, a young suburban food forest complete with wildlife corridors, water sources and pollinator plants. She tells PM:

"There's a sustainable art hidden within ancient marrow: Of ancestral guardians planting seeds; of life and death and renewal; of cyclical breath blooming through my native flute to reassure the butterflies that I, that we, are still here."

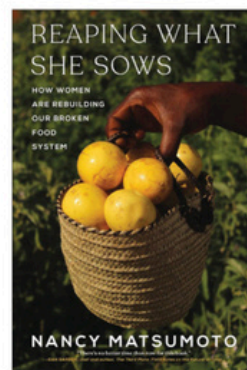
Tony Rollinson



### BIONEERS PODCAST: The Power of Art for Healing and Justice

Joy Harjo was the 23rd US Poet Laureate for three successive terms. Her poem 'A Map to a New Reality' is a wonder in and of itself, but in this conversation with contemporary fine art photographer, Caro Romero, two powerful Indigenous women explore the nature of art and how it can inspire us all to let go of our assumptions of how the world works and allow new ways of being and belonging to arise in the space that emerges when we're open. Inevitably, there is a grim history of colonial oppression and the many-generational trauma that has arisen out of it, but there's great beauty in the reflections on metaphor and the ways it opens multiple dimensions beyond the linear mind – and how the Indigenous languages of the First Peoples of North America are so much richer in their metaphor and their non-linear thinking than English allows.

Manda Scott



### REAPING WHAT SHE SOWS

Nancy Matsumoto  
235 x 156mm, 336 pages, £22.00

Award-winning writer, Nancy Matsumoto takes us on a journey through the Americas, where we meet the hard-working, inspiring and passionate female heroes who are changing food systems.

Each chapter dives into a different area of food: Black mutual aid; The grain economy; Fighting big food; Cow farmers vs big dairy; Meat and poultry; Women who harvest the sea; Cacao and coffee in Belize and Guatemala; Regenerative beverages; and Seeds with Indigenous and diasporic women.

Every chapter is a fascinating deep-dive into each sector, where we meet many different women, projects and businesses: artisan bakers who work with small-scale grain growers; farmers who produce slow-grown meat as part of land restoration work; and entrepreneurs who want to showcase their country's high quality ingredients. Regenerative and Indigenous farming techniques are often combined with modern science and people care and fair shares features throughout – this is the food revolution us perennials have been working towards.

This book is a melting pot of deliciously described foods and drinks, landscapes and people, revealing that what we eat is always more than just sustenance – it's someone's livelihood, ancestry, and story. It's also the health of the land, the waterways and the air that we breathe.

Nancy has woven these colourful and heartfelt stories into a rich tapestry of a vibrant food system that feeds local people and local landscapes. It has reinvigorated my search for local food heroes here in the UK. I hope it inspires you too.

Rozie Apps