

*Heartbeats*  
*by the*  
*River*

IKWUAZOM NNAMDI WENGA

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# Dedication

This book is dedicated to God almighty, the giver of life and wisdom. I also dedicate it to my mother; she's been my strongest supporter. To aunty AU Nzegwu and her children: Nneka, Chike, Nonso and Tochukwu, may God never cease to bless you all. Also, I dedicate this book to Loveth Amarachi, Shadracks Joy Adaora, Chinwe Ebo, Iveanyi Nezianya and Nwando Ogbuotobo.

I specially dedicate this book also to the people of Palestine and Gaza. May God see you through this nightmare.

Finally, to the victims of rape, police brutality, depression, suicide, cultural discrimination and child abuse, this book is dedicated to us all. May you never lose hope and light in the darkness of this world.



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# Foreword

Nnamdi Patrick Wenga is a new voice from the great nation of Nigeria, poised to brave the path once traveled by some of the compatriots before them.

Thankfully, the literary landscape is big and fertile enough for many that dare to profess their love affair with their muse for the reading and enjoyment of the world.

Nnamdi's debut collection of poems titled *Heartbeats by the River*, is a literary gem with poems like "Warm", where the persona tells us "I'm the sun that melts the glacier" and still wonders "Do my eyes summon the gods"?

In "My Country", the patriot in Wenga shines through, where he takes responsibility for whatever he makes his country out to be. Bravely and with pride, he beats his chest to say, "This is my birth and death; bloody nights, still in it I shine". Also, in his poem "Nigeria", he exalts the beauty in diversity, likening its physical beauty to that of "Eden".

Wenga articulates his sensuality and he gets "lost in my feelings" and through this poem like his other romantic poems "Amazon Queen", "Crazy, Wild Romance", etc, he appre-

## HEARTBEATS BY THE RIVER

ciates the beauty and queenliness, hopefully, of the African woman, but then love knows no colour.

Solace can one find in poetry for on another day poets could be preachers of peace. Wenga's "Resilience comes from within" preach that though sometimes, we find ourselves swinging between spaces, we are more than the trials we face.

These themes and many more perfectly run through the collection with a touch of poetic exaltation. With a poet like Wenga, it's certain that there would be many more from where these came from.

**Samuella Julia Conteh,**  
**Order of Shakespeare medalist,**

**Author of Love Colours and The Unsung Song**

*Love has Colours*

## *Sinful Maiden*

A song for my sins,  
But yet no music.  
My loins in conflict with my soul,  
A soul long lost to lust  
I crave for Hades and bliss in heaven  
I beg for a ride unto cries in pleasure  
My body acts on a solo drive  
Making me teary downtown  
She would love to moan your name,  
Don't ask me who, me?  
Nights have I gone to bed soaked from your smiles  
Let me wet your face and make your beards drip  
Lemme shudder and vibe in throes on you.  
Make me cry and yet wrap you till you're clawed up  
Chastise my lust into deeper valleys  
But wait, damn, yet another dreamy night

## *Lost in my feelings*

I know of a certain beautiful maiden  
Who bears the loveliest smile  
And her steps certainly worthy of a queen  
In her eyes are the keys to heaven hidden.

She's simple yet she exudes elegance so rare  
With as much as a touch does she send sweet shivers  
Down the spines of love-struck warriors  
Taming even the bravest to lilly hearted babies.

The sounds of her laughter reverberate in the halls  
of my soul  
Drawing emotions so deeply rooted from my soul  
I'm lost in awe at the aura of her beauty  
For she only needs to breathe for the stars to bow.

Dreams of her spectacular skin adorn my mind  
For how can one be so flawless and still be human  
I wonder what her touch would feel like  
Definitely it must be as soft as the wools of Persia.

Feelings birthed by my sincere admiration and desire  
To feel and hold her close in my arms close to my heart  
Clouds my head and blurs my planned perfect speeches  
Making a word smith like me lose my words hopelessly.

HEARTBEATS BY THE RIVER

She's the lady my heart yearns for  
The fire that burns against the gushing winds  
But allow me be and disturb me not for somewhere  
deep inside  
I'm with my maiden and lost in my feelings.

(To the one with the sweetest smiles)

## *Amazon Queen*

Standing tall over the skies  
With a stern but milky gaze  
A soul so pure the gods wonder  
Her smile blowing off the mountains  
Her heart still remains unexplored  
For her love never ends  
Eyes as though they were stars  
Steps like a dove but as sure as a lioness  
In her beauty found a home  
With her have the ancients found reincarnation,  
For she is old in wisdom but young in beauty  
Ageless daughter of her fathers and clans  
Teach us to smile, and live your legend  
For in you have the heavens birthed a queen

*wildfires*

Like wildfire did they begin,  
Spreading fast and sure  
Her charm was her pureness  
His strength lay in his quest for truism  
Under the sun did their love shine  
The moon playing them tunes of cupid  
Even the stars got jealous and happy  
So the gods cursed them  
To be happy forever without tears

*Songs on the Blue World*

To songs heart and soul sway  
More songs by the blue waters  
Staring up the blue heavens

The dark knight prince and his moonlight  
She was and is and would always be  
The muse of the ancients  
Hold my hands, dear sun,  
For under the moon shall lovers moan  
In tune to melodies thought gone  
But now risen

*Clouds*

Look me in the eyes  
And tell him she loves me  
Draw circles round my nose  
Tickle his wings and seduce her fire  
Let judge & jury dance in jail,  
For feathers inspire my weight  
She smiles like his lover,  
And he flows like her oceans  
Paddle let's go they say to us  
He nods at her and hugs his lover  
The muse of the befallen in bliss  
Lies in the nothingness of fear  
I found her in her  
And she laid claim to his soul  
Now they rule our clouds  
For out of nothing but hearted pain  
Did they find endless love  
Deep is deeper when deep enough

## *Resurrection*

A thousand haughty words we say  
Will always bow to the love we share  
As the fire burns and ashes gather  
Only then is our Phoenix unveiled  
The air have we given hope  
Fires have we tamed to tender  
The waters ever swaying to our rhythm  
And the sands in eternal loyalty  
Hold me as you  
For the sails have just been set  
Kill my fears and inner deaths  
For I'll murder your past demons  
Look us in our eyes and swear to sanity  
That I didn't steal your heart,  
And you didn't rob me of my soul  
Only then shall we die in living

*Fallacy*

I trusted but only to fallacy  
I rose but only to fall deeper  
Trust ye no heart  
And bond not with mortal souls  
For they look not beyond mere words  
Promises seeming like banter to some  
Trust is ever doubt to them  
Boasts of valor and forever standing,  
But yet at the moments of truism  
Those feet heartbreakingly did flee  
Life is stringent to moments  
Love is life only if breaths remains