



Butterfly Diaries Sampler

Excerpts from

Breathe and Breathe and Breathe

A true story in short fiction form by Phoebe Wright

Based on interviews with Brad*

*Name changed for privacy

The white table cloths that were pristine at the start of the reception are now happily messy with empty glasses, wilted rose petals, sauce spots and the odd wine stain. The candles on the tables burn low and the most of the guests have stopped dancing to lounge, sip and nibble contentedly around the marquee. Brad is sitting and nursing an apple juice, had enough beer for the night. He's happy with just a little buzz. He's had a bit of a dance with the old school friends, and got plenty of exercise swinging the younger cousins around. Can't help thinking a smoke would be nice now, but he dismisses the thought.

Brad's twin sister flops down next to him, sweeping the silky lengths of her white dress underneath her. She lets her head drop onto his shoulder with a big sigh. He can smell hairspray, perfume, and a sweet whiff of wine.

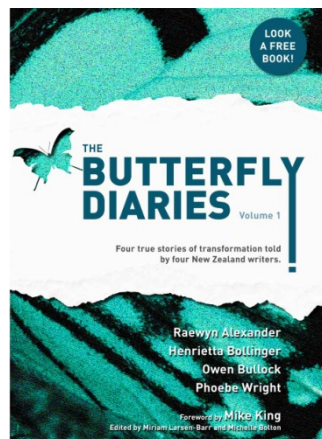
'Perfect day, Ros.' Brad watches his new bother-in-law farewelling guests with hugs and a big grin. Brad trusts the man. Ros will have a good life over on the coast, and Brad thinks he can expect some pretty fine looking nieces and nephews, sooner or later.

'Brad?' Ros's voice is soft as the warm night wafting into the marquee.

'Yeah?' He picks some confetti out of her hair. Its perfect, coiled arrangement is now fraying from the long day and the dancing.

'I'm really glad you're here.' Brad's hand freezes, hovering above his twin's head. He hasn't thought all day about the fact that he so nearly wasn't here. All that darkness seems so long ago, irrelevant now, and yet it nearly stole him from his sister's wedding day, from seeing her in a white dress making promises to a good man. It nearly stole from him all the warm faces, jokes and dancing in this marquee that he will remember with a smile for years to come.

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