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### Review by Candace Morehouse

In the introduction to this collection of poetry by Dawn Huffaker, the author likens the chapters to a series of 'flights' - those which are inspired by nature and come as the result of experiencing joy, beauty, sadness, and other emotions. Most of the poems were created in response to the majesty of scenic views which abound outside the windows of her home in southwestern New Mexico. This becomes abundantly obvious as the reader delves into the book.

Ms. Huffaker's poems were written over a period of 25 years or so. From those that deal with her younger days in school, to those that herald some of her greatest loves - God, rodeo, and computers - a diversity of subjects and styles is represented. But all are inspirational, deft at portraying particular images, and evocative of higher emotions.

I think my favorite part of this volume, however, is those poems which convey nature. New Mexico is truly a splendid representation of natural beauty and God's skillful touch in designing magnificent glory. The author excels in getting the description of this exquisiteness just right: soft purple glow/whispers across the sky/as the sun yawns/and exits the day; soft pink glow/nudges the stars/from the dance floor/and sends them off to bed. I love these lines and their personification of celestial bodies.

Reading Ms. Huffaker's lines makes me long to visit New Mexico and view its natural beauty once again, as seen through her eyes; as the author states: I live on the shoulder/of a sleeping giant/his nightshirt is made/of the junipers/and pines. Flights of Fancy is a truly touching and beautiful work.

### Candace Morehouse

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### Review by Chase Von

Flights of Fancy by Dawn Huffaker is a beautiful collection of poetry by a very gifted writer. As I was reading through this remarkable book I kept getting ideas of my own, and one of them was I knew I was going to be sharing it with my daughters second grade teacher. This work is suitable for all ages but I found myself thinking, "Now here is someone that has captured the voice of nature in such a way it has to be shared!"

Summer has its own unique personality, as does Spring, Winter and Fall

although deep meanings are shared through out. Dawn gives a voice to trees, leaves, snow, rain, the changing seasons, the moon, the sun and the stars and as you can tell, I could just keep going, but it is a wise voice, a beautiful voice and an Angelic voice.

Regardless of age you won't ever look at a butterfly, a flower, a tree or a coming "Spring Shower" or "Thunderstorm" quite the same again!

(Excerpts from Winter Scene)

Silent trees  
Sleep peacefully  
In the cold  
Winter's air.

Golden grass  
Nod their heads  
As they dream  
Of summer's dance

(Another excerpt from Flight's of Fancy Volume 1)

'tis Time for Spring

Tree  
Yawning, stretching  
Deep breath,  
Alive  
Awake,  
'tis time to bloom;  
'tis time for spring.

Personally I think this should be included in all the elementary curriculums through out the US and that the state of New Mexico should be honoring this gifted bard by having the process begin there. As well as recognizing her creations and the woman herself as one of the state treasures!

Ridiculously high praise?

Read it then judge for yourself! In a world where children are no longer allowed to really be children, this book clearly captures the magic of nature and what it is to view nature with the eyes of a child, unabashed appreciation for the many gifts God has surrounded us with!

I highly recommend it for children and adults alike who in most cases, sadly I also add, have forgotten what children seem to know instinctively...

Nature has a voice...

And all the nature that surrounds us is intriguing, wondrous, mysterious, magical and worthy of so much more thought and appreciation then we in most cases give it. Almost every day my daughter has to read a book for school, record the title and who the author(s) are, as well as how long she read it. This book is definitely going to be one of the books I personally assign to her for her Reading Log.

Thanks Dawn for sharing your gift with this world of ours and I will be sure to let her know also, that this is Volume one, and that means there is more to come!

Sincerely,  
**Chase Von**

Your Chance to Hear The Last Panther Speak

[www.myspace.com/lastpanther](http://www.myspace.com/lastpanther)

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