

# Life Among the Milkweed

## *Author's Note*

*Life Among the Milkweed* is a photographic showcase of the life that hides among the plants and grasses in the fields around our feet. This was a project begun out of my love for the monarch butterfly. Aware of its dependence on the milkweed plant, I stalked the insect there, and in doing so, discovered an unassuming mini-world of color and intrigue existing around me in silent acceptance of its place among human giants.





In a field of  
milkweed,  
secrets hide.  
Pause.  
Look.

Common Milkweed  
(*Asclepias syriaca*)

Meet the gaze of a red milkweed beetle  
whose black beady eyes peer over a leaf's edge  
looking for danger before, in false death,  
it drops down to safety among the grasses.



Red Milkweed Beetle  
(*Tetraopes tetraphthalmus*)





*Observe* the birth of the butterfly  
whose legs anchor it to safety  
as its bloated body pops from its protective casing



and it dangles, pulsing blood into its wings  
until they reach their full splendor  
and are ready to beat the air.

Monarch Butterfly emerging  
(*Danaus plexippus*)



# Glimpse

the golden-ringed eye of the spring peeper,  
sitting in silence against a stalk  
until the sun spreads pastels across the sky,  
when it will stretch the skin at its throat  
and soothe the night with a whistle-song serenade.

Spring Peeper  
(*Pseudacris crucifer*)

