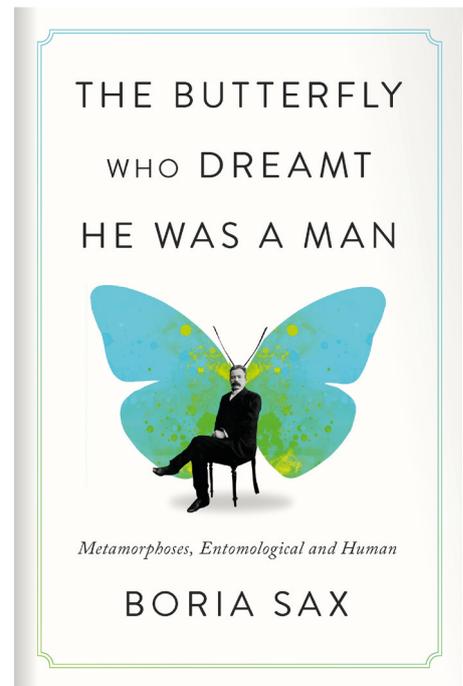


THE BUTTERFLY WHO DREAMT HE WAS A MAN

Metamorphoses, Entomological and Human

BORIA SAX

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‘A mesmerizing philosophical tour of insects, humans, and transformation.’ – Mark W. Moffett, author of *Adventures Among Ants* and *The Human Swarm*

‘Boria Sax’s *The Butterfly Who Dreamt He Was a Man* brilliantly weaves together all the threads that tie us to the natural world. He finds literary and literal connections that will make you rethink our relationship to insects throughout history, their magnificence and the vital role they continue to play, keeping our planet on its axis.’ – Peter Kuper, author of *Insectopolis*

From ancient fables to modern science, insects and their metamorphoses have long inspired human understanding of life’s transitions. This original and engaging book traces how these transformations have shaped rituals around birth, marriage and death, while also provoking deep questions about identity. Through stories that connect Zhuang Zhou’s butterfly dream to figures such as Kafka, Merian and Dürer, it explores the strange, beautiful and sometimes unsettling ways in which cultures have understood insects – as miracles, messengers or monsters. Blending humour, history and environmental insight, Boria Sax offers an imaginative lens on the growing crisis of insect extinction. More than just a natural history, this is a cultural and philosophical journey that shows why losing insects means losing part of ourselves.

Boria Sax teaches at Sing Sing prison and online in the graduate literature programme at Mercy University. He has published numerous books, many of which have won awards and been translated into multiple languages. His most recent is *Enchanted Forests: The Poetic Construction of a World before Time* (Reaktion, 2023).



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