

The book cover features a vibrant illustration. In the center, a demon slayer with a white face and a crown of red flowers holds a large, ornate red sword. To the left, a large, colorful butterfly with blue, green, and orange wings is depicted. The background is a dark, moody landscape with a field of red and pink flowers in the foreground. The title 'Demon slayer' is written in a large, black, cursive font across the center. The author's name, 'Quimetta Perle', is written in a smaller, black, cursive font at the bottom right.

Demon slayer

Quimetta Perle

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for Natu, who has taught me everything
I know about slaying demons

and for Tyrone; we have slain a few
together

and for Demon Slayers everywhere,
you know who you are



P

earlie Mae Sparrow

was saddened by the death of her mother, which was followed by the death of her father. Life took a couple of hard turns. Suddenly it seemed everywhere she looked was hardship. She was beaten down by the demon crowd. They stomped her and taunted her. They moved into her house. They ate her food and took her money. They laughed at the memory of her mother. The demon Ecinue vowed to take even that from her. The demon Apapdu already possessed the spirit of her father, and vowed never to return it.

And the demon

Recnak sat on her happiness. Recnak, a very clever demon, always searching for a flaw, was the first to find a crack in Pearlie Mae's spirit (everyone has one, a small one), and filled it with loathing. Pearlie the Sparrow, as they called her, or Mae or Bird, started to despise herself. She began to crumble from within and shatter from without. She trembled and cried and raged. And although many people loved her, they couldn't help her.

"Someone has to get

rid of these demons! Why can't you kill these demons!" she roared at her husband. But the demons sat on her husband who was stricken with illness, and threatened their son.

"Enough!" cried the Sparrow. "I will become my own hero!"

And with those magic words, she was transformed. She shaved her head and took up the sword.

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Enter Demon Slayer.





"A demon slayer must slay demons," she said.

Demon eyes looked down at her from the top of the refrigerator and up at her from under the bed. Small demons circled the kitchen light. The little demon Yelack sat on the television and the demon Oniade sat on her husband as he slept.

"I'm cleaning this house," she said.

She took her sword to sweep her house clean. Yelack and Oniade, she beheaded, and she sliced the wings of the others. They hobbled off as fast as they could go. No more demons to sit on her husband and make him ill. No more demons to threaten her son. There were no demons to eat her food or take her money. Her husband was well. Her son was safe. Demon Slayer kissed them both.

First she hunted Ecinue, who threatened her mother's memory. Each day, something was changed and remade ugly and wrong. Her mother's smile was gone and had been replaced by a demon's grinning mug.

As she was searching, Demon Slayer heard the barking of demons and the beating of their wings, and the piteous cries of a frightened creature. Young demons were attacking a baby bird that had fallen from its nest, and were menacing it with their sharp claws and beaks. Drawing her sword, she whirled it above her head. It bit through the air and made a roaring sound. The demons began to whimper and flew away.

"Y

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like me," she said. "It's lucky I came. I'll call you Lucky." The sparrow hopped after her on her way.



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Her search was

long, and in this time, her hair grew back. Almost every day she took a new appearance to disguise herself from her prey.

She found Ecinue on a hill so barren, only one plant grew. She drew her sword. Her sword was a scimitar, a longsword, a samurai's katana, a rapier, a sickle, a sabre, or all of those. Her sword was called Justice, and the blade was covered with seeing eyes.

Ecinue was mesmerized by the gaze of the eyes. She couldn't run. She couldn't fly away. Demon Slayer rose above her and pinned Ecinue to the ground with her sword. The sword went right through her demon's heart, or where her heart would be if demons had hearts. Drops of Ecinue's blood fell on the ground, and the plant became a mighty tree,





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Like a shattered glass reassembling itself, all her memories of her mother came rushing toward her. They were all present and whole and clean. Her mother's mouth smiled on her face. Demon Slayer felt peace.

Next, Demon Slayer sought out Apapdu, who held the spirit of her father captive. Apapdu was an old man himself, who had been at his work for many years. He lived alone with his possession on the fifth floor of an abandoned warehouse.

When she got to the floor, Demon Slayer began to dance. Apapdu, usually so fierce and wary, was caught off guard. She spun closer and closer, and the light glinting off the sword blinded Apapdu until it was too late. She ran him through with a straight thrust. As Demon Slayer's sword pierced his skin, she heard the whistling sound of a rushing wind.

It was the spirit of
her father being released. She sensed more than she heard it say,
"Thank you, little one."


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*A*s the creatures

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breathed a last puff of breath into the air. On it rode their
souls, which turned into butterflies and flew away.





When the creatures
died, they shriveled into nothingness, vanished, the demons
breathed a last puff of breath into the air. On it rode their
souls, which turned into butterflies and flew away.





T

he death of any

creature saddened Demon Slayer. Although it was her sworn duty to vanquish her foes and remove them from existence, the death of any creature, real or unreal saddened her. She saw that revenge is not sweet, and in their way, the demons were trapped in their own, bitter tragedy. The beauty of the butterflies and their transformation lifted her spirit and she danced like a fool.





But she was not finished.

There was still Recnak who sat on her happiness and filled her with loathing.

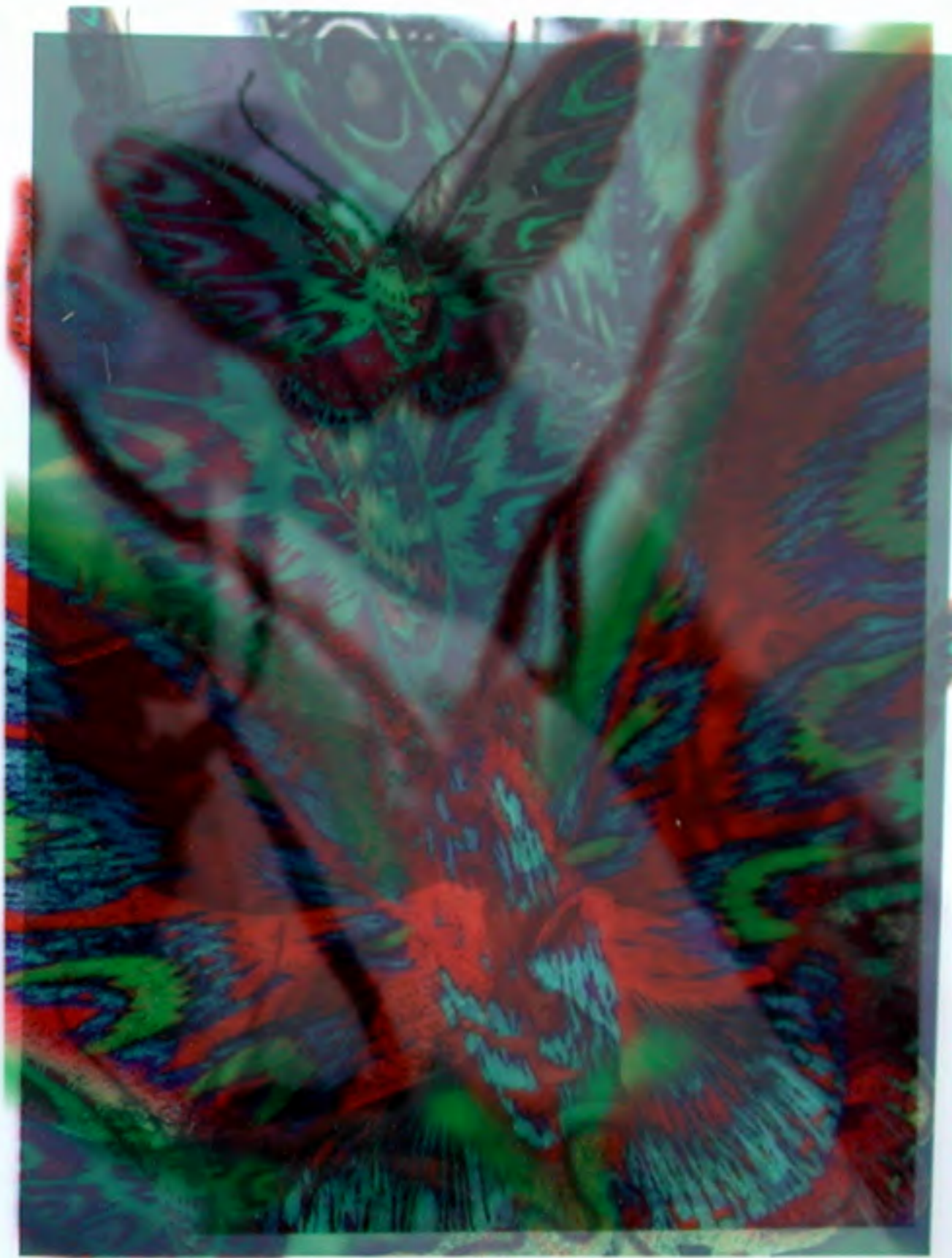
Recnak was a putrid smelling demon. Her weakness was sweet smelling flowers. She had stripped an entire rose garden, and she lay in a pile of blooms. The perfume filled her nostrils and she was drunk.

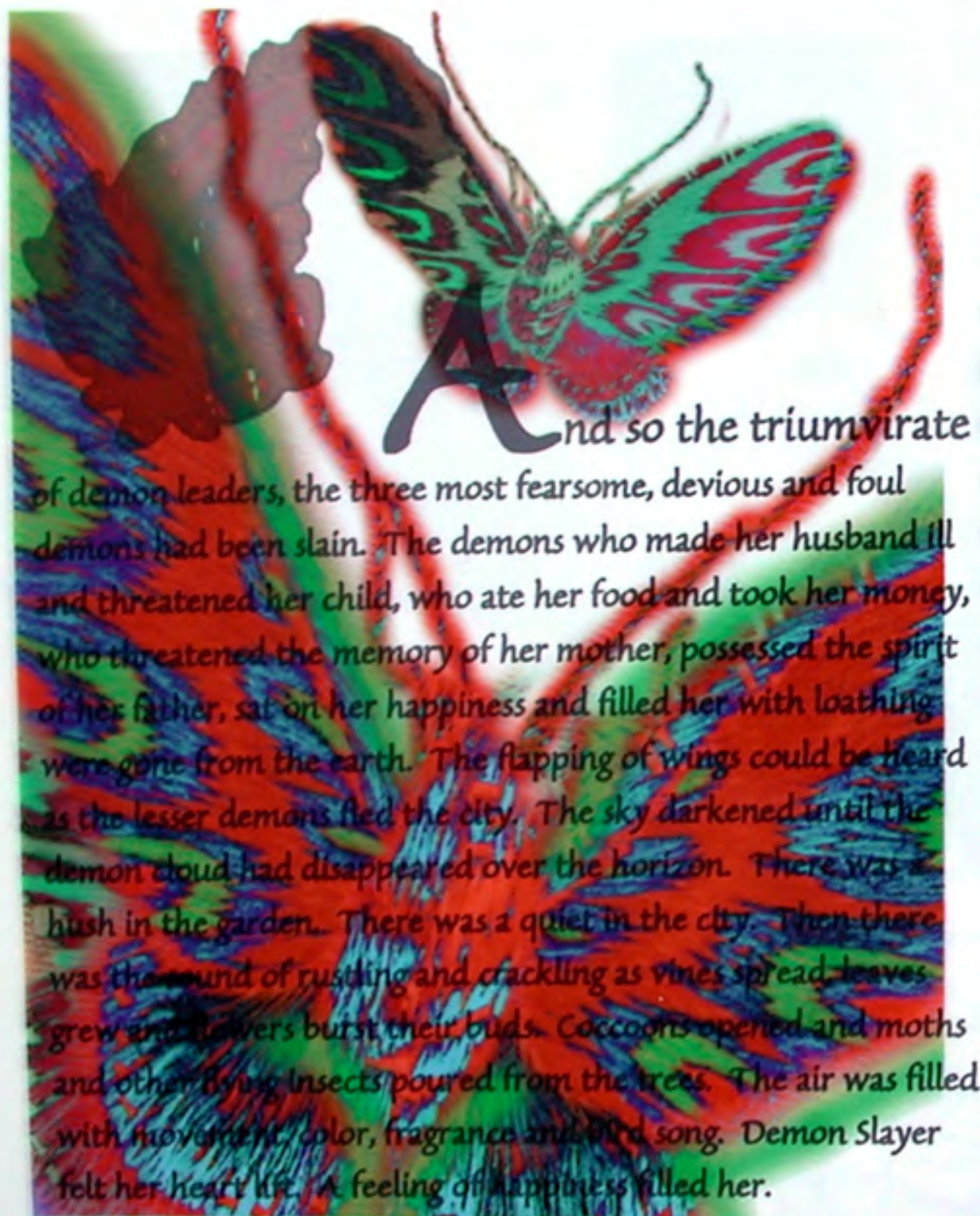
She was asleep in the roses when Demon Slayer found her. With one stroke of a mighty blade, she beheaded Recnak. Time stopped. The blade hung suspended. Recnak's head remained in the air. And then time moved forward again. The blade clattered to the ground. The head fell. The body went limp.





And so the triumvirate of demon leaders, the three most fearsome, devious and foul demons had been slain. The demons who made her husband ill and threatened her child, who ate her food and took her money, who threatened the memory of her mother, possessed the spirit of her father, sat on her happiness and filled her with loathing were gone from the earth. The flapping of wings could be heard as the lesser demons fled the city. The sky darkened until the demon cloud had disappeared over the horizon. There was a hush in the garden. There was a quiet in the city. Then there was the sound of rustling and crackling as vines spread, leaves grew and flowers burst their buds. Cocoons opened and moths and other flying insects poured from the trees. The air was filled with movement, color, fragrance and bird song. Demon Slayer felt her heart lift. A feeling of happiness filled her.





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"Time to go home,

Lucky," she said to the sparrow. "For now."

