REIKO - ...That's why you need to grab whatever chance you have of happiness where you find it, and not worry about other people too much. My experience tells me that we get no more than two or three such chances in a lifetime, and if we let them go, we regret it for the rest of our lives...

A lot has changed in my perception of the messages of Haruki Murakami's Norwegian Wood since the time I first read it as a teenager, cover to cover, in a day. This piece is a tribute to the journey leading up to my second read as an adult, now with my own set of lived experiences.

The stories in the book are almost exclusively told through the long dialogues between character. I see Toru as a sounding board and processing mechanism for these stories, so I kept him apart. In contrast, each of the female leads’ near-monologues produce large colourful patches on their wings, and you can clearly make out Reiko's detailed backstory before her days at the sanatorium.

The more the characters share with each other, the more detailed and colourful the outward expression of their inner workings become. Exchanging words is nothing but a dance. I hope you enjoy.

"People are strange when you're a stranger."

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Each of the main characters of the book other than Toru - Naoko, Midori, Reiko - is represented by one butterfly. Butterflies flap their wings as characters exchange words with each other.

A line of dialogue becomes one colourful patch in the Voronoi region of one of their wings, each complete dialogue forming a Voronoi cluster. The bigger and more saturated the patch, the longer that character spoke for uninterrupted.

The central butterfly for Toru is different. He does not have a complex Voronoi web, but only a simple ever-changing pattern.

Music is central to Norwegian Wood; I had to incorporate it. Flowers appear next to the butterflies at times when one of the numerous songs mentioned in the book appears in the story. One special flower stands out - the deep pink Norwegian Wood.