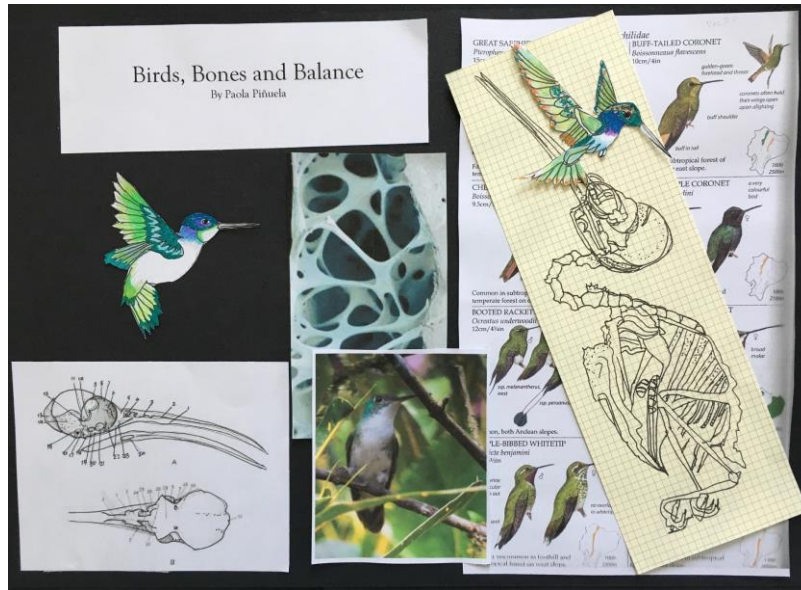


TEN WORD TALES No. 6  
**Quest for a Quetzal**  
by The Story Spinner

CHAPTER 2



“My plan is in two parts,” said Professor Paola. “First: I am hoping my next book will sell particularly well.”

Everyone looked a little uncomfortable. The professor wrote books, full of careful research. She had just written a book about toucans. Now she was writing a book about hummingbirds.

Her books did not make much money: they were long and complicated. Her hummingbird book was not about the birds' beautiful colours or crazy-fast wings. The title was **BIRDS, BONES AND BALANCE**, *Pneumatization in Trochilidae*. Trochilidae is the scientific name for hummingbirds. Pneumatization is the way birds' bones become extra-light for flight by almost 'growing' hollow places. This was interesting to a birdy person like Alanza but not likely to sell millions of copies and make money to extend the reserve.

“Secondly,” Professor Paola continued, “there have been rumours from tourists in town of a strange quetzal being seen. Instead of scarlet front-feathers and turquoise head-back-and-tail-feathers like a resplendent quetzal, its colours are the other way round. Such a bird would be a sensation and bring bird-lovers flocking from all over the world to the reserve.”

Alanza's heart was beating with excitement. A new bird?! And she might be the one to find it.

“Tomorrow we will begin searching. Be early.”

**Read Chapter 3 tomorrow!**