



## We start bright eyed

By Juliet Hunt  
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We start bright eyed  
With strong belief  
That we can do some good  
Our hearts are pure  
But far too sure  
That what we have  
Is what they need

We do our best  
Convince ourselves  
We are oppressed  
By donors, structures, and the rest  
Fail to see we're not the solution  
Not experts,  
But part of the problem

There is no doubt  
Having someone  
On the inside's great

It helps so much to smooth the way  
Enjoy the ride, no guilt, okay  
But how often and when  
Do we cede to their say?

We start bright eyed  
Convince ourselves  
We'll hold the line.  
Search for our place,  
Compromise.  
The line gets blurry  
Vale accountability.

*This poem was prompted by Anna Gibert's [post](#) 'Useful outsiders - how can external actors support authentic locally led development?'*

## About the author/s

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