Poroporaki In This Room*

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There's a place that we can go and tell our secrets to In this room, in this room. Papatuanuku, ranginui, te atua, tupuna, Whanau, me and you.

We have many, many faces That we unmask to you Feel our pain — In this room.

See beneath our skin and gang patches To our beauty within Help us heal our wounds — In this room.

Take our hands so we can lead you Where we need to go, All shadows cast aside, So we can leave this room.



Tess Moeke-Maxwell is from Ngai Tai ki Umupuia, Ngati Porou, Ngati Pukeko and Ngati Pākehā. She is currently a Health Research Council (HRC) Research Fellow in the Māori and Psychology Research Unit, School of Psychology, Waikato University.

^{*} Inspired by and sung to the tune of the Beach Boys' (1963) song "In my room" (from the album *Surfer* Girls).

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