

Sample Q and A Interview with Naz Knight

Why Do You Write?

I write when I want to feel freedom. Writing is the only time I truly feel free. It's a solitary activity that gives me space to be alone, own my boundaries, and the freedom to be me.

I enjoy creating an escape hatch for me to fall into, and I hope that the reader wants to join me there, and we can escape the world together for a while.

Writing is not about avoiding my thoughts, as much as it is about processing them, gaining perspective, owning my own mind, and becoming lost in it.

What Does Writing Mean To You

Words are my companions and my entertainers. To me, they are a natural flow of energy, each with their own vibration and feel.

They flex and flow and wax and wain and follow the natural rhythms of life.

I turn to words when I am alone and lonely. I engage in wordplay, lexigrams, and double entendre. It helps pass the time when I am waiting for a bus, plane, train, etc.

Whilst watching travellers passing through those same waiting rooms, an organic stream of people flowing through an ever-changing environment that somehow always looks the same.

That's life; a picture paints a thousand words, and a single word created life.

If you are a reader, then you know that words create entire worlds within books. Words provoke action, motivate change, and without a doubt, are the most potent weapon we possess.

The pen will always be mightier than the sword, especially in today's world, where engagement in so many activities requires signed consent.

Why Biographical Fiction?

I like biographical fiction because I like people. I like watching them, talking to them, learning about them, and seeing how society has shaped them.

Sharing their stories so that others may learn about the lives of people they have not met or places they have not visited.

It can help a person to understand another person's experiences and innermost thoughts.

Biographical fiction helps a reader to think and care about someone very different from themselves.

What Is The Collateral Beauty Series?

The Collateral Beauty Series (CBS) is one story explored in three ways: Poetry, Play and Prose, that explores the story of Libby.

CBS delves into what it is like for her to grow up in a post-war, post-industrial, working-class town. As Libby tries to become all she wants to become; pursue a changeless sense of who she is; where she has come from and seeks to reach the place she wants to go.

"I Am Collateral Beauty" is a drama/suspense novel.

"I Can See What The Dark Looks Like" is an immersive, digital, poetry, theatre play created using multimedia performance.

"Poetry Emotion: Collateral Beauty" is CBS's prose and poetry, with journey guide.

Why Did You Write "I Am Collateral Beauty"?

Because I want to remind people that there is still love in the world.

Negativity flies at us daily, in a world that seems so dark and bleak and a society that feels broken.

It's important to highlight the light that is within us all. To know that light will shine no matter how dark it gets.

We are Beauty because we are compassion, joy, love, empathy, understanding, patience, and tolerance. Our beauty we own, it's the damage that is collateral.

The Idea Of Collateral Beauty Is A Strong Theme In The Book. What About That Idea Moved You?

There is a saying of unknown origins which states, *"Butterflies can't see their wings. They can't see how truly beautiful they are, but everyone else can. People are like that as well"*.

It is not just how they look at themselves but also how they view the events and circumstances they find themselves in.

The 2016 film by Allan Loeb, "Collateral Beauty," explored this in its search for meaning in heartbreak and death and resonated deeply with death being such a massive part of my life. (My older sister Karen died of cot death; my twin passed away before we were born).

The idea is that love is at the centre of suffering, pain and loss and this at its core is collateral beauty.

I think this idea is the one that has made me the most resilient, that fills me with hope and optimism. I love the contradiction, the beautiful sadness.

This is my scream of the butterfly, letting the world see the beauty I see in the place I call home. I guess you could call it a love story to Luton.

Describe "Poetry E.Motion: Collateral Beauty."

"Poetry Emotion: Collateral Beauty" is CBS's prose and poetry, with journey guide.

Similar to my earlier poetry book "Butterfly Drinks Crocodile Tears". However, this is a three-part book based upon Mazza's multidimensional poetry therapy practice model.

I spent so much of my time feeling fat, ugly, and worthless. I had internalised the hate flung at me from other people.

"Poetry Emotion: Collateral Beauty." Results from me shedding all the internalised labels and assumptions that flow at me from society, based on my race, gender, age, place, and space that I live in.

The journey guide is the process I went through to find my authentic self and the beauty I am within.

How Does The Play Differ From The Books?

“I Can See What The Dark Looks Like” is an immersive, digital, poetry, theatre play created using multimedia performance.

It tells the story of Libby whilst focusing on how we experience the integration of media through our senses.

It's about exploiting media to create a more total experience. A digital and multisensory immersion in sight and sound, made possible due to advanced technological forms of digital multimedia.

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