

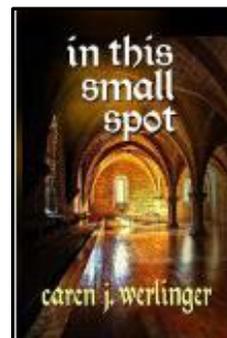
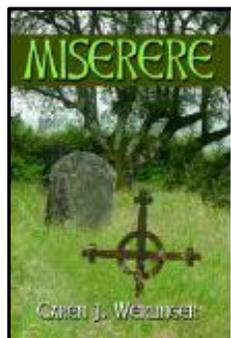
July 7, 2014

Meet My Main Characters Blog Tour

I am honored to be invited to participate in Meet My Main Characters Blog Tour by the talented author, Caren Werlinger. I have had the pleasure of reading Caren's books-*Looking Through Windows*, *Miserere*, (my all- time favorite), *In This Small Spot*, *Neither Present Time*, and *Year of the Monsoon*.

Check out her books and web site at: <http://cjwerlinger.wordpress.com>

***Miserere*, *Neither Present Time* and *In This Small Spot* all won or placed in the 2013 Rainbow Awards.**



OK, let's get started. My work-in progress is a 360 degree turn from what I usually write. Previously, I've written 5 lesbian romances (*The Choice*, *Clinical Distance*, *Collide*, *Entangled* and *Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?*) but this time around I've taken on a non-fiction project titled, *I Have to Leave You Now-A Survival Guide for Caregivers of Loved Ones with Alzheimer's Disease*. This book was inspired by the family members who come to my office each day not knowing what to do or where to turn for help when a family member is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. This book is also a personal account of my own family's journey taking care of my mother who was diagnosed with AD in 2006.

1) What is the name of your character? Is he/she fictional or a historic person?

Since my work in progress is a non-fiction self-help memoir, the main character of the story is me, a forty-something nurse already frazzled running a medical practice and taking care of several terminally ill family members when her mother is diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's disease. *I Have to Leave You Now* were the last coherent words my mother spoke to me before she lost her battle in 2010. I chose it for the title of this book because it so clearly describes what happens when a loved one is diagnosed with AD-everyday feels

like good-bye. The book is written for caregiver's who are taking care of family or friends with Alzheimer's disease.

2) When and where is the story set?

The story is set in Northeastern Ohio in 2010.

3) What should we know about him/her?

That she has been a registered nurse for 32 years. That she's worked in practically every aspect of nursing (from nursing homes to the intensive care unit and now as a medical administrator.) Even with all her experience in the medical field, caring for her mother brought her to her knees...and to a gurney in the emergency room one Christmas day, curled up in the fetal position enduring the worst panic attack of her life.

4) What is the main conflict?

The main conflict in the story is how does this caregiver and family take care a loved one with a diagnosis that is cruel, life altering and terminal and come out whole on the other side? So many families are dealing with this on a daily basis. I thought it was important to share my journey and pass on what I learned along the way.

5) What is the personal goal of the character?

To take care of her mother and to get through this ordeal without losing herself. She starts off feeling invincible—that she can handle anything Alzheimer's throws at her. But she soon finds out that taking care of patients with AD is one thing and taking care of someone you love with AD is something totally different. She finds it is impossible to maintain the 'clinical distance' that she was taught in nurses training. Her ego and emotions get in the way as she attempts to help her mother through the most difficult challenge of both of their lives with compassion and dignity.

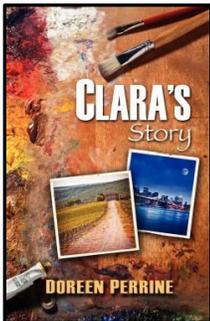
6) Is there a working title for this novel, and can we read more about it?

Yes, the title is: *I Have to Leave You Now-A Survival Guide for Caregivers of Loved Ones With Alzheimer's*. The manuscript is going through the final edits. I will be posting info on my website once it is finished.

7) When can we expect the book to be published?

If all goes right with our publishing schedule, it should be out in the fall of 2014.

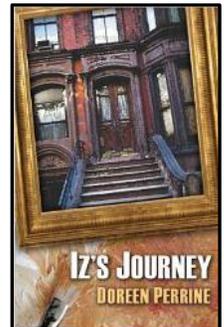
I've tagged another great author and artist, Doreen Perrine, to discuss the characters of her books. Doreen's third novel, *Kid*, will be published by Bedazzled Ink in July! *Clara's Story* and *Iz's Journey*, the sequel to *Clara's Story*, have been published by Bedazzled Ink in paperback, Kindle, and Nook forms!



<http://bink.bedazzledink.com/index.php/books/books-c/claras-story/>

<http://bink.bedazzledink.com/index.php/books/books-i/izs-journey/>

Check out Doreen's blog post on July 14.



Thank you and take care,

Maria

www.mariaciletti.com