

Fairy Tales: Real, but not True

by Laurie Fraser

When I was in my 2nd year of lyme disease in 2007, Archangel Metatron came to me and said, "To finish healing, you must put a spiritual layer on the book." My husband, who crossed in 1997, was at Metatron's side with his constant refrain: "Finish the book."

I was incensed! I had spent 12 years writing a novel based on the years I lived in Turkey married to him (a Kurdish freedom fighter) and the book was finished! I said, "Seriously? You want me to put a spiritual layer on a novel about adventure, lust and politics?"

It was quite some time before I understood that "put a spiritual layer on it" meant "tell the truth".

When I recovered my health enough to sit at my computer, I read each chapter with "second sight" and I commented in italics throughout. The novel had been written in 3rd person, fiction, to protect my husband's identity. The added italicized comments were written in 1st person. It was the author's voice- older, sober, wiser, reflecting on the lessons learned, the spiritual benefits of that exhilarating & traumatic time. The 1st person voice gently prodded at the fabrications of fiction, the truths avoided.

I revisited the joy in the beginning of the book and commented: Yes, he was just like that! Looking into his eyes was like looking in a mirror and I knew we'd shared many lifetimes. I read about the cultural confusion and mistakes I'd made, and I laughed. How was I to know that the leftover bread should go to the neighbour's chickens in the basement and that my door should never be locked? I knew nothing about interdependence. How could I feel safe when my husband gave our last lira to a beggar? I knew nothing about sharing, but I learned about Unity and security in a country that offered no security.

In Turkey I experienced life without rights or social safety nets. I met Kurdish refugees without aid, food, dry beds or shoes. We gave them all we had, and I learned what lack really is. In the most profound way, I became truly grateful for my blessings.



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My husband was arrested and tortured. I explored fear at the personal level and at the group level too (the threat of ethnic cleansing). As I read, I healed and wrote: "Love surpassed fear every day. I refused to leave- it was the greatest love I'd ever known. Nothing else seemed real to me."


After 3 months I had a fairy tale written in the 3rd person with author's italicized comments throughout and in a long epilogue which admitted some embarrassing truths. What to do with that?

Eventually, healthy and solvent again, I hired a professional editor who helped me to integrate it all into one story. The awkward manuscript became a literary story with depth that addressed more than culture, human rights, risk and the requirements for love. It now admits the uncomfortable truth & conundrums of life: the real vs. the ideal, what we want vs. what we get...and what to do with that.

I sure hope you'll take a look at *The Word Not Spoken*. Readers have told me they chose it over sleep, dreamed about it, read it again; they tell me they love the characters and the writing; they tell me it rings true.

Free e-books to book clubs and I'll visit them too!

Laurie is also a teacher & healer. www.lauriefraser.com.
Print copies at all independent Ottawa bookstores and Amazon.com. All e-book formats available.



The Word Not Spoken
a novel by Laurie Fraser

A romantic adventure set in Turkey addresses human rights, risk and the requirements for love.

Find it at Ottawa independent bookstores or order online at Amazon or any of your favourite e-bookstores.

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