

Contact: Alexis Zinkerman

azinkerman@gmail.com

News Release

Local Woman Pens Novel in Poetry

Brooklyn's Song is Brooklyn's journal of sorts through bad and good times. Brooklyn, a 15-year-old girl struggles with the loss of her best friend Emily to suicide as well as finding a place of her own in the world. Through finding her voice, she forms a community she never dreams she'd find. Set in Chicago and spoken in verse, Brooklyn's story reads like her own poetic journal entries.

West Hartford—When Alexis Zinkerman was 33, her best friend committed suicide. Devastated yet empowered to raise awareness about suicide prevention and mental health resources, Zinkerman began to look for what she could do, how she might add to the conversation on these issues. A graduate of the Master's in Writing program at DePaul University, she began playing with language in poetic form and a story started to emerge.

The story was about a 15-year-old girl, Brooklyn, who loses her friend Emily in the same way. Brooklyn begins to learn how writing can heal and develops her own poetic voice. The style of the book, verse poems which tell a story of fiction or nonfiction, has been approached before by Samantha Shutz, Sonya Sones and others.

Suicide is often a societal taboo but Zinkerman covers it with grace and respect in her debut novella. Geared for teens, people of all ages will glean something out of its pages.

“I worked as a communications coordinator at the Depression Bipolar Support Alliance Greater Chicago as well as wrote the annual report for NAMI-CT. Through hearing other people's stories of suffering and most of the time healing, I began compiling characters for later use. Stories of mental health are an important topic of our day with the rash of mass shootings and suicides of Ivy League college students we hear about in the news. We need to start a dialogue about these issues and have places where teens and young adults can express themselves.

I'd like to offer writing workshops for young adults in schools and libraries to engage young people to find and share their voices.”

(more)

Zinkerman is a member of the West Hartford Library's Faxon Poets and has had journalism published in the Hartford Courant, the Hartford Advocate, the Hartford Business Journal, the Shore Line Times, the Chicago Tribune, the Monanock Ledger, CTNewsJunkie, as well as many others. A University of Hartford grad with a degree in journalism and English, she holds a MA in Writing from DePaul University and an MLIS from Dominican University in River Forest, IL. She has studied the lyric essay at the Brown University Creative Nonfiction Symposium as well writing with Dani Shapiro at a private retreat in Litchfield, CT. She lives with her husband Robert in West Hartford. She blogs at <http://www.alexisazinkerman.com>. Pasttimes include: photography, running, fitness training, reading teen lit, cooking, yoga, and meditation.



Brooklyn's Song

A novella

Alexis A. Zinkerman