



The Letterpress Project

# An Interview With Rachel Finch

**Q1. What are your earliest memories of books and reading? For example, did you have a favourite or inspirational book?**

I have always loved to read. I enjoyed books of a mystical nature in my early years, stories that were otherworldly. I was heavily into Virginia Andrews in my early teens and a particularly powerful book for me was 'Flowers in the Attic'. Jane Austen was another favourite. I read a whole array of genres but it was my love for poetry that developed in my late teens and that has stayed the most important literature to me.

**Q2. What inspired you to become an author?**

The trauma I have experienced was really the inspiration behind my writing. I was looking for a way to deal with the heavy feelings I was having and poetry became a very therapeutic form of self-expression. I wanted to write to inspire other survivors to share their stories.

**Q3. For you, what makes a successful book?**

I consider a book to be successful if it was written with drive and truth and if it is read with a shared awareness. I have a deep love for poetry and I don't believe there is any one way to succeed with prose.

**Q4. Do you have a specific audience in mind when you write your books?**

I do have a specific audience. I started a blog with my writing and have built a huge following of others that have survived abuse/trauma. I write for anyone that feels they cannot find their worth. I write so that women that have been sexually violated can remember their courage and their purity. I write for those that struggle with depression/mental illness and I hope to inspire them to keep fighting for their lives.

**Q5. What future do you think the physical book has? For example, do you think the electronic book will replace the physical book?**

I have noticed through my experience of publishing that books are far more readily available online than in any store. I have also seen the number of bookstores in my country decline over time. I can see electronic books playing a massive part in the future of literature, but I do still very much hope we continue to be able to flip the pages ourselves and connect with the words in our palms.

**Q6. Are you a book collector? Is there a special book you'd love to own?**

I have always loved to collect books. I have books from a whole variety of genres but it is the poetry collection I am building that excites me. I would love to own Nicole Lyons 'I Am A World Of Uncertainties Disguised As A Girl'.