

Homicide: The Game

Presents

Painseeker

"The 10 Questions"
Answers from Laura Douglass

1 - What do you do for a living?

I own Safehaven, the bar where I created The Bleeders. As Lance said before, I was the person who started the artistic community. Lance helped bring in members, but the bar was mine and so was the idea.

2 - How did you know Raychel?

Raychel and I became close through The Bleeders. We had a mutual respect for each other's talent. I think we both knew from the start that we had a lot in common.

3 - When did you first meet Raychel?

I met Raychel in late summer in 1997 during a meeting of The Bleeders. I had seen her in the bar and around the neighborhood a few times, but I didn't speak to her before that night. A few nights later, Raychel came in and said she lost her apartment so I took her in. She lived with me off and on until she died. She'd come over to talk and wind up staying with me for a week or two. That was just the way we were together. My door was always open for her.

4 - What one word best describes Raychel for you and why?

Magnetic. Not magnetic like attractive, though, which she was. I mean magnetic like a person who draws people to her without ever really trying. People naturally flocked to her, especially men.

5 - What one thing would you have changed about Raychel and why?

I wished she was more independent. She allowed herself to be led along by too many people for too many wrong reasons. That got her into trouble a lot of times and I believe it eventually got her killed.

6 - How did Raychel affect your life?

Raychel is the most talented person I have ever met. Her work was courageous, tragic, honest and brutal. "Passion's Flashes" is still one of my favorite poems of hers. When I asked her how she got the idea, she told me that she really was struck by lightning when she was five. It fascinated me. Few people could pack that much meaning into that brief a poem, but she did. Living with someone that talented changes you. It challenges you to look deeper into everything, even yourself.

7 - How did you affect Raychel's life?

I gave her security when she needed it. And she needed it a lot. See my answer to question five.

8 - What is your best memory of Raychel?

From my experience with writers I've learned that most of the ones who write really dark work rarely are able to put those thoughts aside and be openly happy. Raychel was one of those. But one time, about a month before she died, I got to be a part of one of those light-hearted moments with her (the only one I ever saw from her). It was a night of just her, me, and Sharon Wolfe (her bodyguard). We were talking about Kyle and the problems she had been having with him and the effect it was having on the recording of the album. All of a sudden, she just started laughing. Sharon and I didn't know what to make of it at first. I thought she might be cracking up. But she started talking about how stupid all her whining suddenly sounded to her. Then she just began a hilarious tirade about "poor little Ray." She joked about everything, her career, her poetry, and especially the men in her life. That night, nothing was safe and nothing was

wrong. So even though I didn't see her that way that often, that's my best memory of her: laughing at life like it was all a bad joke.

9 - What would you do or say if you could bring Raychel back?

I would take Raychel in for as long as she needed to get off her dependence of men. I guess I would put her in a testosterone detox. For all of her self-examination, I don't think she was ever really happy with herself. I would have done everything in my power to help her realize how special she was and build up her self esteem.

10 - Who do you feel is most responsible for Raychel's passing?

Kyle McAllister. He was the absolute worst person for her to have around her. He used her, abused her, and now she's dead. See my article "Kyle vs. The World" to see how he did it.