

Homicide: The Game

Presents

Painseeker

"Acquiescence"
by Lance Wagner

I fire down three shots in rapid succession to Raychel's memory and begin writing with a happy heart.

I write this week's article with deep gratitude for several reasons. The main reason, however, is that I am exceedingly pleased that this past week is over. By writing this article I am in a sense closing the book on one of the most demoralizing sequences in my life. Perhaps the only week that was worse was the one immediately after Raychel's murder. But this week comes with a light at the end of the tunnel.

Two weeks ago I posted and read Ken Kincaid's article "Unfinished Business" containing his offer to allow me complete and un-litigated first-publication rights and access to Raychel's entire library of poetry and lyrics in exchange for complete and unlimited access for anyone who knew Raychel to post their feelings on this very site. I did not originally intend to respond to Mr. Kincaid's offer through the site, as I did not – and still do not – feel that this is the appropriate arena.

However, Laura Douglass' impassioned plea for me to accept Mr. Kincaid's offer in last week's "On A Grand Opening" left me with no choice but to respond on the web site. Her request for all readers of her article to e-mail me and demand that I accept the offer did not fall on deaf ears. Quite the opposite, as I have been inundated with e-mail insisting exactly that.

That is how my demoralization during this week occurred. After all of my efforts to establish and maintain this site as a living memorial to Raychel, I received nothing this week through the site but an extensive parade of e-mail condemning me for withholding information on the site. I sometimes wonder if there is anyone out there who truly understands what I have been through, and what I am trying to work through.

I created this site. My sole reason for doing so was to allow visitors the opportunity to know Raychel as I did: as a fierce and passionate poet who wasn't afraid to confront the truth. In an effort to gain additional perspective, I decided to allow others to contribute to this site. My intention was to have others provide "slice of life" stories of their interactions with Raychel. My first selection for an additional contributor was Raychel's (and at the time my) best friend, Laura Douglass. Apparently, that was a mistake.

Since her initial contribution to this site, Laura has done two things to subvert my intentions for this site.

First, Laura's initial submissions to this site ("Kyle vs. The World" and "Kyle Crystallized") dealt almost exclusively with Raychel's unsolved murder and the possibility of Kyle McAllister's involvement in committing the crime. While I agree with her that Kyle McAllister is at least tangentially responsible for Raychel's death, I did not wish to see the site denigrate to unsubstantiated rumors and innuendoes regarding Raychel's murder. I participated in the discussion of the crime, but reluctantly and responsibly (see my article "That Day"). I expected that I would only be required to re-visit that part of my life once, and then I would be done with it. Sadly, that has not been the case. Laura deserves full credit for that.

Laura's other subversion of this site has been her behavior with potential contributors to this site. I made my initial request for material from David Vanderhoff in February. This was the same time that I had originally contacted Laura Douglass. Since that time I have received several submissions from Laura Douglass, but only continued delays from David Vanderhoff. I can only assume, after Laura's admission that she intentionally delayed David's participation on this site, that Laura contacted David immediately after receiving her own invitation and asked him to put me on hold. I do not know the reason for this offensive tactic, but I am disturbed at what this could mean about Laura as a person.

In addition to her contact with Raychel's brother, I am also distressed about Laura's notification of Ken Kincaid regarding this site. Ken admitted to receiving a call from Laura in his first article to ask him to contribute to this site. At the time, I was

contemplating asking him to contribute, but wanted to further establish the nature of the site before allowing contributors other than Laura and myself. However, Ken Kincaid sued his way onto the site and has since continued to threaten legal action (which I cannot afford to defend) to withhold material crucial to the mission of this site.

Therefore, as Raychel's poetry is required for me to achieve my original and stated intention of providing Raychel Wagner with a living memorial, I have no choice but to accept Ken Kincaid's offer to grant first-publication rights of Raychel's poetry and song lyrics for use on this web site. In exchange, I will allow full and open access of this web site to all acquaintances of Raychel Wagner.

By accepting this offer, I am taking a short-term loss in favor of a long-term gain. Having acquiesced my control of this site, I understand that the nature of it will temporarily evolve. Over the course of this year, despite the best efforts of others, I have established a memorial to Raychel for which I am proud. However, I expect that focus (and the civil tone it carried) will be replaced in the near future. In its place, the site will devolve into what Laura and Ken want it to become: a banana republic style "investigation" into Raychel Wagner's homicide. I only hope that the police will watch this site, and that a nugget of information they desperately need comes their way through here.

In time, I expect that the "investigation" here will either lose steam or (preferable solution) be rendered moot as the crime is solved by the police. At that time, I will seek to return the site to its original state. Until then, I have made a deal with the devil, and the devil is due.

Since this is the current state of affairs, I feel the need to commemorate this new official focus of the site by firing the first shots at other future "contributors" to this site. Since Laura Douglass provided a list of people she would like to see be allowed to contribute to the site, it seems fitting to throw out my own first questions.

Sharon Wolfe - I understand you will contribute next week's article. Please answer this question (in addition to The 10 Questions): Knowing that Raychel and Kyle McAllister

had frequent arguments and occasional physical confrontations, why did you leave Raychel alone at Kyle's apartment on the night that she was brutally murdered?

Note: Please remember to answer in complete subject/predicate sentences as I understand your physical prowess has come at a tremendous cost to your communicative skills.

David Vanderhoff - I understand from Laura Douglass that the two of you are close. Does your wife know about Laura?

Sergei Brosovsky - When Raychel was recording her album at Terror Trax, Kyle McAllister played all of the instruments and Geoffrey MacIntyre recorded and produced the albums. Yet you know about the recording sessions at Terror Trax? What were you, the janitor?

Anna Fantiani - Who are you and what makes you so important that Laura included you on the list of people who must be allowed to contribute?

Geoffrey MacIntyre - The Wunderkind record producer enters the recording studio with Raychel for three months and only come up with one "finished" song? What was going on in that studio?

Kyle McAllister - Why did you give up trying to move Raychel's body? Did you hear the police? Also, despite the fact that neighbors hear a loud argument in the apartment, you couldn't be found for half a day after Raychel's murder. What were you doing at that time, hiding your bloody clothes?

Laura Douglass - Raychel was a poor woman with an expensive habit. How did she ever get that way?

Ken Kincaid - It's interesting that Terror Trax began to go bankrupt right after you signed Raychel. You must have been trying to impress someone very important to miss that little tidbit. Did you at least get to sleep with the person?

No wonder Laura and Ken like this style of writing. It's easy and it makes me feel good. Too bad I won't be doing more of it in the future!

To those of you who took the time to blindly follow Laura Douglass' wish and berate me with e-mail: I hope that you show the same fervor to the other participants on this site when they post their "memories" of Raychel. Until that time, I don't expect to be contributing more than introductory paragraphs on the site or providing answers to very specific questions.

I'll be watching all the chaos you helped to create.

Good-bye.

Lance