

CARLA'S NEWSLETTER FOR APRIL/MAY

The newsletter this time around has a lot to do with *Desire*, the sequel to *God's Callgirl*, released in Australia on April 1. I have already received the first response from a reader in Victoria, and I quote it partly for you here:

I finished reading DESIRE: Awakening God's Woman today. I would like to let you know how profoundly it has moved me and will change my life. I have had my sexual boundaries invaded on an emotional level in my past. I have been on the path to self-love and acceptance for a long time, but your book has really shown me how far I still have to go, and what is required. I can't thank you enough for that.

I hope one day I find love the way you have. I am now ready to embrace it, thanks partly to you.

You are beautiful and extremely courageous not only for what you have gone through, but for having the guts to expose it to the world.

Many, many thanks,
Kirri

As my friend Margot's said, *Carla, doesn't this make it all worth while?* Margot is a significant character in the book, and she was also its first editor. I feel so honoured when readers tell me that they have gained spiritually by reading my books.

A different story emerges from Benalla, the country town where I lived and taught as a nun for four years before leaving the convent. The owner of the local bookstore applied to my publisher to have me come over to give a dinner talk, and talks at three various libraries. And then he read the book, and cancelled! "I'd be flayed alive," was his comment. He admitted he had read only 100 pages before deciding that "there were no hidden gems in there." I understand that he lives in a very conservative community, and can't be seen to be promoting a sexually and emotionally frank book, even if he was willing to sell many copies. A critique, sent in by one of the nuns in response to the publication of *God's Callgirl*, criticising even that book for being 'pornographic,' encouraged the sale of around 200 copies when he put her letter on his shop window. The same nun also wrote that she "hoped God would forgive Carla," indicating how she and her community had judged me. Well, I and the nuns were always already forgiven!

I had so looked forward to meeting the nuns again (there are five still living in community in Benalla) and just talking to them as human beings, building bridges of acceptance of each other. Since this is not happening, I am writing them a letter.

Aaron and I are still meeting and talking. We are still making a most beautifully rounded, complete closure. We acknowledge the karmic bond between us, the attraction, the love, the friendship, the openness, *and* the fact that we are not suited to be partners in life. Both of us have accepted that with grace. It is so good to have lived a relationship to the full, to make mistakes, to learn the lessons, to not blame yourself for what cannot be undone but instead trust what wants to rise triumphantly out of the ashes.

I will quote another comment about my book from a business friend in Perth whom I shall call Bill.

Hi Carla

Just wanted to share that I started reading *Desire* today and have had a wonderful day largely because of it.

Once again, as happened in GC, you successfully touch the reader (me) with a profoundly deep sense of love and respect for nature, objects, people and life itself. It is a book of learning, revealing veiled nuances in human relationships and beyond.

And this from a young woman of 31 who lives in the UK, where *Desire* has been released under the name *The Price of Passion*.

Hello, Carla

The Price of Passion stirs the reader to go beyond the superficial and explore what is internal; it's written with transparent nakedness, fearless of outer interpretations and steadfastly grounded in personal revelation, inner discovery and truth.

This book is an open invitation to allow the experiences shared by the author to impact upon us the reader to dig our own wells, to deeply open up so we too can become spiritually more alive and so live a life of passion ourselves.

Let *Desire* stir you on your personal journey of self discovery, knowing where there is truth, there too is acceptance, and best of all, unconditional love.

Lisa Francis

London

Thanks to Lisa, to Kirri, Bill and all my friends and readers. You are not expected to like all of my book. It is controversial in some respects, but it is not intended to scandalise or offend. I was inspired to write it and trust it will do what it is meant to do in the world.

Now that this baby has been born, I am giving my attention to providing workshops. I will be 70 this year but feel energetic, young and enthusiastic. This is not by accident, but because I am aware of how to nurture energy in the body, which in turn relies on nurturing the state of our mind and emotions, and our spiritual connectedness at any moment. And so *Rejuvenation* is a wholistic affair, which I will present in weekend workshops to the over-40s'. I have much health, beauty and energy tips to share with my women friends.

May you walk in peace, innocence and passion!

Carla

PS I am without my office help this week, so am sending this the way it is.