



Free of Malice

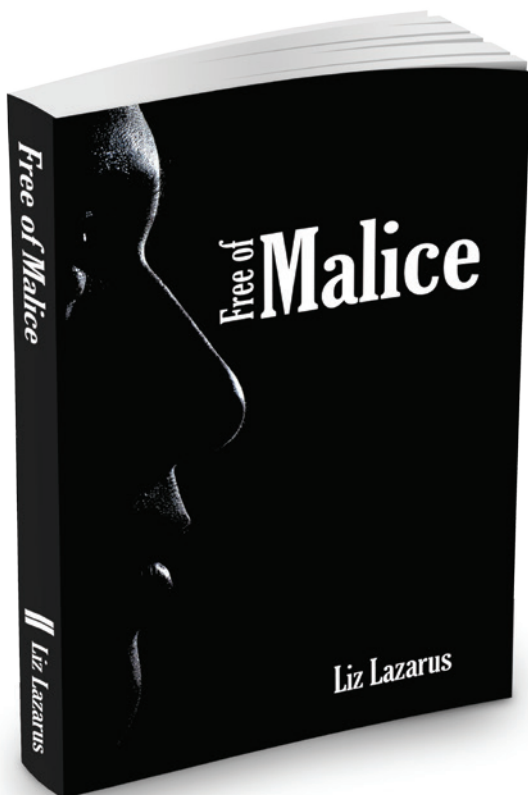
By Liz Lazarus

JKS COMMUNICATIONS – LITERARY PUBLICITY

Angelle Barbazon | 615-928-2462 | angelle@jkscommunications.com

SYNOPSIS

A thriller that portrays the emotional realities of healing from a vicious, physical attack and the obsession of one woman to force the legal system to acknowledge her right to self-defense



Loosely based on the personal experience of author Liz Lazarus, **Free of Malice** is a page-turner full of drama and suspense with unexpected twists.

Set in Atlanta, main character **Laura Holland**, a rising journalist, endures a night of terror when she is attacked in her home in the middle of the night. *“I remember seeing the diamond of my engagement ring sparkle in the dim night as he thrashed his head. This was the only time I caught a glimpse of his dark face, with my fingers in his mouth. He did not seem human, but like a rabid beast attacking me in the night.”* Although she fights off the would-be rapist, his parting words are a threat to return. At the urging of her husband, Laura undergoes therapy to recover from the trauma, learning about a relatively new technique called EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing) used for PTSD patients. But just when the reader feels a sense of where this book is headed—the story of a woman healing—the plot veers in a new direction.

Though Laura did not own a gun at the time, she wishes she could have shot her attacker as he fled. When she learns that her actions might not have been deemed self-defense, her journalistic instincts are kindled. Laura decides to write a hypothetical legal case, which plays out the events of that night had she shot and killed her assailant. She enlists the help of a young, black attorney, **Thomas Bennett**. Though Thomas proves to be clever in the rules of the criminal justice system, his striking resemblance to her attacker does not go unnoticed. As the two work together to develop the case, Laura’s discomfort escalates, particularly when Thomas seems to know more about that night than he should. Could he possibly be her assailant or is Laura being hyper-vigilant? Reality and fiction soon merge as her real life drama begins to mirror the fiction she’s trying to create.

As an added bonus, we invite you to listen to “Let Me Breathe,” the song that is described in the book, at www.freeofmalice.com. The piece was written by Thomas Barnette, one of the author’s best friends and the inspiration for the lawyer character. “Let Me Breathe” was co-produced by Liz Lazarus.

ISBN 978-0-9909374-0-1 / SPRING 2016 / THRILLER / MITCHELL COVE PUBLISHING

TRADE PAPER \$12.95 / E-BOOK \$5.95 / 274 PAGES / 6”X9”

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The events that inspired Liz to write her psychological thriller, *Free of Malice*, happened to her while a senior at college. She was living off campus in an area called Home Park when she was jarred awake by the sound of her bedroom door crashing open. She surprised even herself at her ability to fight back before this would-be-rapist eventually fled. Though her voice was hoarse from screaming and her fingers bloody from his bites, Liz physically survived the attack. Emotionally, however, her sense of security was shaken. As a means to heal, she began writing about that night and the changes to her life.

At one point, Liz had mentioned to her brother-in-law that if she had owned a gun, she would have shot the guy when he was leaving. He countered that her actions might not have been deemed self-defense which got her thinking about the criminal justice system. Though *Free of Malice* is a hypothetical legal story, written in conjunction with several criminal defense attorneys, the attack on the main character was drawn from Liz's real life experience. In addition, the unique therapy sessions using EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing) techniques that the main character undergoes were written in collaboration with an EMDR trained therapist.

Interestingly, Liz never intended to write a fiction novel—she had other ambitions on her bucket list—a career at GE, living in Paris and learning to speak French, receiving her executive MBA from Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management, earning her pilot's license, and co-producing a music CD with her best friend, Thomas Barnette. But as she describes it, “the book wouldn't leave me alone—it kept nudging me to write it to the point that I could no longer ignore its calling. And now that the book is done, I look back and realize what a rewarding journey it has been.”

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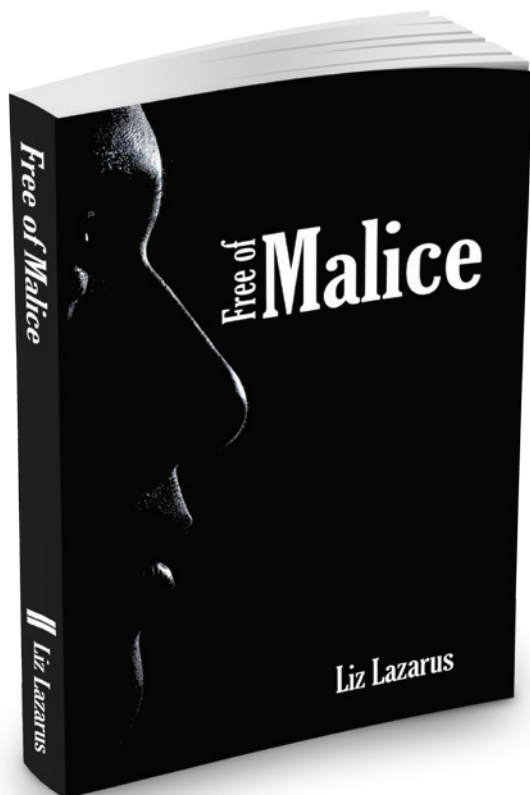
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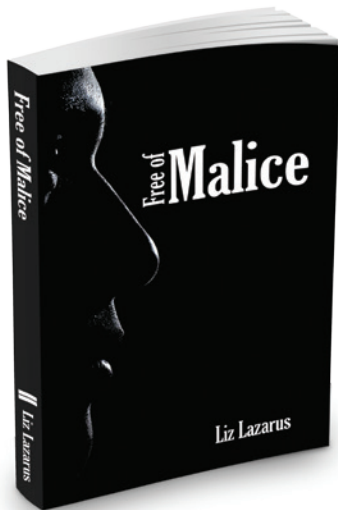
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AUTHOR Q&A

A Conversation with Liz Lazarus

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Q: Where did you get the idea for the book?

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Q: What made you decide to self-publish?

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Q: Are there any specific authors whose writing styles or subject matter inspired your book?

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Q: Why should someone want to read your book?

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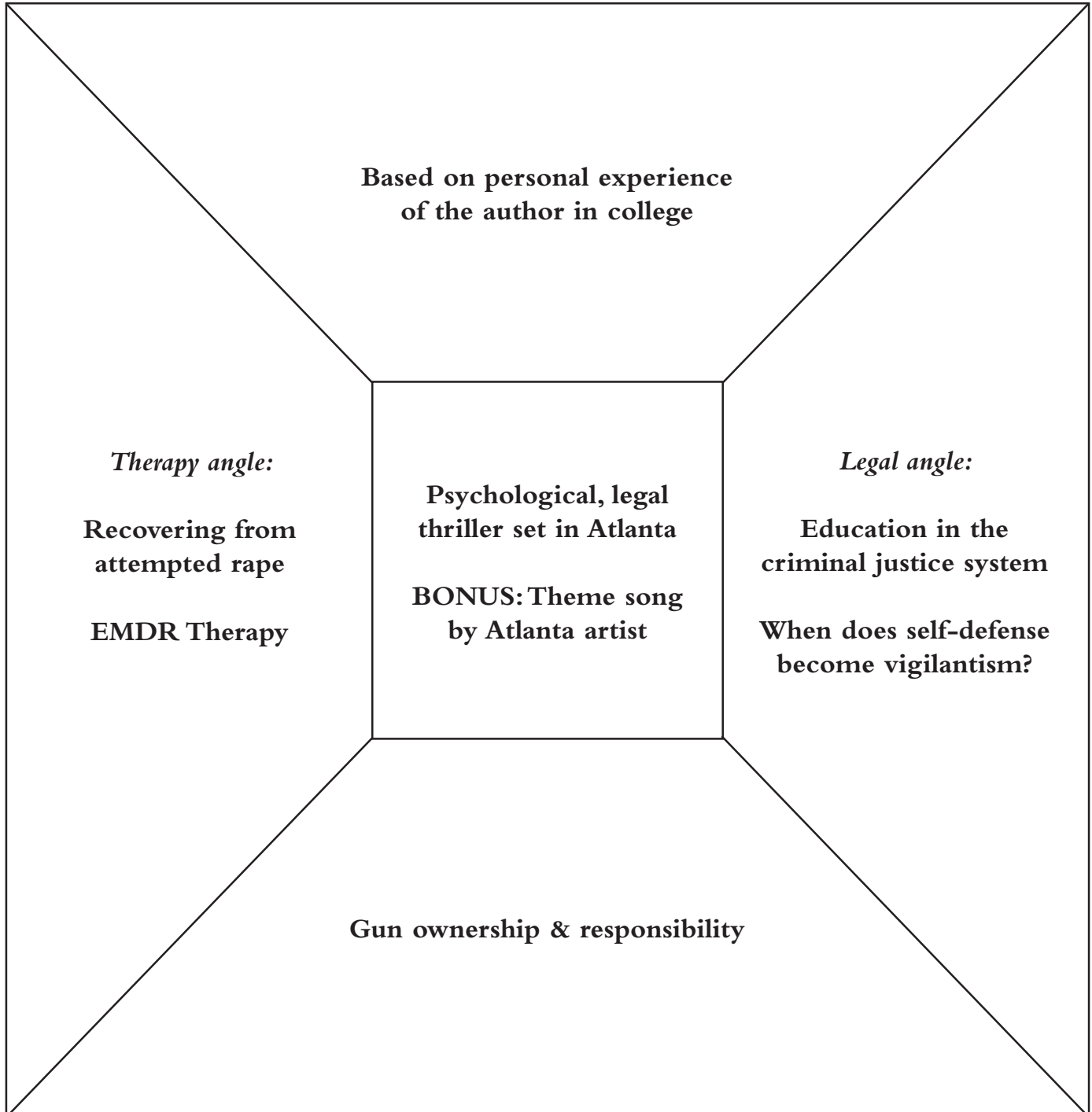
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TALKING POINTS FOR *Free of Malice*





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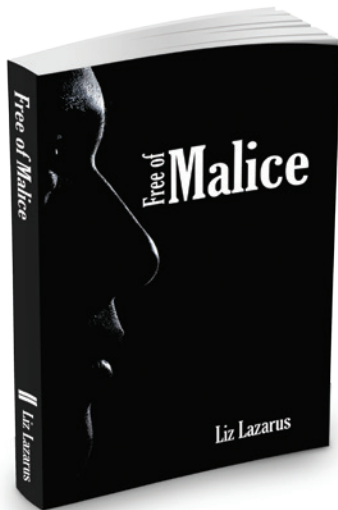
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