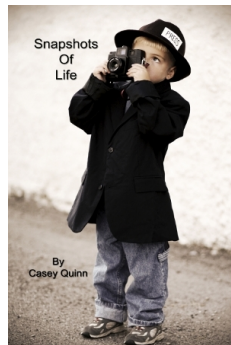


## TheDeer talks to poet Casey Quinn

### “Snapshots of Life”



<http://www.salvatorepublishing.com/book.php?id=9>

**Hi, Casey. I know you're a poet ... your book “Snapshots of Life” has just been published ... but before we talk about the work, can you tell me a bit about yourself? Do you do anything other than write poetry?**

Unfortunately, writing poetry buys coffee and does not pay the bills. So, yes, I do other stuff. I work at a large bank in the US, am happily married and I'm the owner of an old house that always seems to need maintenance. As I reply, I can hear my kitchen sink dripping .... I do a good deal of reading in my free time and try to alternate between fiction and poetry books, though lately, it has been more poetry than prose. I have two dogs, an old car, a well used barbeque and am located in Charlotte, North Carolina.

**None of the poems in your book (with the exception of one repeated word) use capital letters. I'm assuming this was a deliberate choice. Did this arise from a subliminal desire to focus more on the messages in your poems rather than on convention?**

Pretty much. I have found that too many people focus on form or punctuation versus the actual meaning or content of the poem. They try to make it look pretty or follow a strict structure or pattern but at the cost of quality and interesting content. I decided to keep it simple ... just lower case everything and strip out as much punctuation as I could to keep the focus on the words and what I wanted to say.

**I notice that though you obviously prefer free verse as opposed to form poetry, there is a consistent shortness of line length and sometimes a skeleton of structure beneath each piece, as if it were intended for perhaps a live reading or something. Am I right?**

You are right on! I don't have a specific structure in place for any poems other than I just add breaks where I naturally would pause when I read it back out loud. At times, I will add additional breaks if I really want to emphasis something but overall I just try to identify natural breaks in my reading and apply breaks. Again, keeps it simple.

**There is an underlying feeling in many of your poems of a sense of loss of things possibly seen as old fashioned and traditional. Family values ... perhaps even God. Is this your poet's way of protesting the direction that the world has been taking lately? Do you hope that this book will change someone's life perhaps or change their perspectives?**

I do feel a loss of the values of the good old days in our society. We live now in a buffet-style moral system where people tend to pick and choose what they believe in and what they follow without any type of consistency. I don't ever really expect to change anyone's views on things with my poetry. Rather, I just hope I properly capture my own views and, that after reading my poems, someone can see what I see. I would be happy with just understanding my point of view, it would make me feel less cranky I believe.

**Over how long a time period do the poems span? I'd guess that some of them were written about a decade ago. Did their order in the book happen naturally? Were they sorted in any particular fashion with a view to balance in one way or another?**

Many of the poems were just notes in a marble notebook that I have had for quite some time. Over the last five years or so I have been trying to take the notes and work them into poetry. So, the thoughts behind the poems are easily a decade old but the final products I would say five or so years old. The order did happen naturally. As the title of my latest collection is *Snapshots of Life*, I thought it would make sense to put the poems in a progression that would make sense. This collection is very much a snapshot of my life and what was happening or what I was thinking about over the last decade all the way up to the last few months before the book was released.

**How has the book been received? We know that poetry book sales are never going to let any of us retire as wealthy poets or anything! Do you have any tips you could offer to prospective poets aiming for publishing? Is there something that you'd do better or differently next time around?**

To be honest, I have been very pleasantly surprised with the way the book was received. It has been getting amazing reviews from various poets and reviewers. Sales have been consistent and have sold more than I would have expected. You know I just didn't know what to expect, didn't know how people would respond to the poems but really, it has been amazing. Very rewarding. As this is hopefully the first of many collections to be published my goal with it was to get my name out there, put a quality collection in front of readers who would hopefully enjoy it and be interested in future collections.

My tips for poets trying to get their work out there is to write about two hundred poems once you have found your voice (it could take two hundred poems just to find your voice). Submit those poems out there to print and online publications. Post them for critiques on forums and get feedbacks from strangers (don't trust family/friends only). Don't get defensive about rejections. Be consistent and write daily and when you have a good percentage of your poems published, start to send out queries to publishers confident in your writing.

## **What's next for Casey Quinn?**

What is next for Casey Quinn? Well, I have sent in a few small collections to a few poetry chapbook contests. I always write a poem each day in an effort to keep capturing what life is like for me. I try to send in a few poems a month to various publications and keep getting my work out there.

I am going to keep on publishing my magazine Short Story Library and books with ReadMe Publishing. Ideally, what is next is to keep on doing what I am doing. Staying motivated, positive and having a little bit of luck out in the publishing world.

**Casey Quinn** (when he's not working at the bank) is the Editor of Short Story Library <http://shortstory.us.com/> and ReadMe Publishing <http://readme.us.com/>