

The Extra Scoop: BFI interview with author Melda Beaty where she gives more on her 2012 novel Lime, and her experience with BFI.

BFI: First, BFI would like to thank you Ms. Beaty for collaborating with us on our Spring Flavor fundraiser. This was BFI's first year hosting an ice cream social and your presence bought an extra welcoming feeling to the event overall.

BFI: Did you enjoy your Oberweis ice cream treat? :)



Melda Beaty: Unfortunately, I can't eat ice cream, but my daughters enjoyed it immensely. I take them to Oberweis all the time.

BFI: How did you learn about The Branch Family Institute? What was it that inspired you to collaborate with BFI and become a supporter?

Melda Beaty: I began attending District 22 Domestic Violence Committee meetings in the spring. They mentioned the fabulous work happening at Branch Family Institute. Rita Ryan encouraged me to call Ms. Thompson and I did. When we met, I felt comfortable talking with her about my novel and my desire to collaborate with organizations that address some aspect of domestic violence. I knew I wanted to do more than just sell books. I wanted to partner in fundraising efforts and writing workshops for the clients Branch Family Institute serves.

BFI: What are your thoughts on Supervised Visitation, family and individual counseling?

Melda Beaty: I'm glad to know that these types of services exist and that they exist in the Beverly community. I understand the need for and tremendous benefit of supervised visitation, family, and individual counseling.

BFI: I had the opportunity to read your novel Lime, and I found it to be heartwarming, temperature boiling as well as victorious. I actually found myself looking back at the stages of my own life's journey. I especially found myself loving the way you depict the friendship bond between your main character Lime and her best friend AJ. They were truly a support system to one another, just as many girlfriends are to each other. Now, I don't want to give a lot of details out of courtesy to those who haven't read Lime yet, but can you give us an extra inside scoop?

Melda Beaty: Thank you for that great description. I wanted to write a story that explored notions of beauty for women against the horrors of violence against women, but I wanted to do it through a co-dependent friendship based on unconditional love, protection, and sincerity. Yes, Lime is a story of victory, but it is also a story of friendship, empowerment, and true acceptance of one's self.

BFI: Although *Lime* is a fictional novel, it touches on some real life subjects such as Domestic Violence, family dynamics, relationships and self-image. Do you think that *Lime* would serve as a “leisure therapy” read for those that find your themes relatable?

Melda Beaty: I truly hope so. I like that you used the word “therapy,” because the women in the novel used writing about their experiences as a kind of therapy. As a result, I am offering writing therapy workshops for victims and survivors of domestic violence.

BFI: Are there any personal experiences that served as inspiration for writing this novel?

Melda Beaty: I’m not a survivor or victim of domestic violence, but I know friends and family members who are survivors. The reality of their experiences, along with an early fascination of the reality show “America’s Next Top Model,” inspired *Lime*.

BFI: What was the hardest part of writing *Lime*?

Melda Beaty: The hardest part was the revising and editing. I started *Lime* in 2005 and published it in 2012. Most of that time was spent revising and editing and giving up. Everyone seemed to have an opinion about what *Lime* needed or didn’t need. It became frustrating, until I finally decided that *Lime* had had enough input from others and was ready to debut.

BFI: Is there a message in your novel that you want readers to grasp?

Melda Beaty: Yes, the profile of a domestic violence victim is different today. She is beautiful, successful, independent, educated, etc. yet she can still find herself in an abusive relationship. However, the good news is that she doesn’t have to stay in that relationship and she doesn’t have to live a life of shame. The message is empowerment.

BFI: Did you learn anything from writing *Lime*? And what was it that you learned?

Melda Beaty: I learned how to write a visual novel. I wrote *Lime* like a movie. I am a visual learner and I wrote it as if everyone is a visual learner. I think it’s better to show than to tell.

BFI: *Lime* ended with a surprising turn for the protagonist. Will there be a sequel?

Melda Beaty: Absolutely. I have done some preliminary research and I will start writing the sequel this summer. Stay tuned.

BFI: What are some of the current projects that you are working on and what can we expect from Melda Beaty in the future?

Melda Beaty: Aside from writing the sequel to *Lime*, I am awaiting a reading of my stage play, *Front Porch Society*, in Los Angeles, California this year. I also have an idea for another stage play and I have many more stories in my head. I pray for the time to write them all and debut them to readers and audiences in the near future.

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Want print version: <http://www.amazon.com/Melda-Beaty/e/B008W1SQOY>

Goodreads: http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/641528.Melda_Beaty

Sample or purchase *Lime*: <http://smashwords.com/b/320341>

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