



Bali Advertiser

Odyle Knight: Writer, Psychic and Astrologer (Bali Advertiser)

Odyle Knight was born in Greece and her family moved to Australia when she was two, where she grew up in the inner suburbs of Sydney. A Psychology and History graduate she worked as a teacher before becoming a School Counsellor, in both country and city districts. She is currently living between Sydney and Bali and working on Bali Hai - A Woman's Journey, her fourth book. In Australia she is a practicing astrologer.

What was it like growing up as a teen in Australia in the 1960's?

It was the best of times. My friend and I would go to TV studios to dance on pop shows and do crazy things like climb fire escapes of hotels to meet pop stars. To this day I have a valuable collection of autographs, including Bob Dylan, the Who and Eric Clapton. I guess I aspired to greatness even back then!

What are your hobbies?

I love travel, art, music and dance - anything ethereal, creative and inspiring.

What person has had the greatest influence in your life?

My mother. She's a remarkable woman, a Mensa member who reads widely and speaks seven languages. As a young girl she withstood horrific experiences in Auschwitz during the Second World War and survived. As did my father. From her I gained strength, intelligence and sensitivity.

What books have deeply affected you?

I am drawn to books about personal spiritual journeys, and was particularly influenced by the work of Lynn Andrews. My personal favorites among her writings are Medicine Woman and Woman at the Edge of Two Worlds.

What kinds of jobs have you had?

I drew on my creative spirit to become involved in fashion design and worked in live theatre in London, as a cook for Contiki tours touring around Europe and on a wildlife reserve in Nepal. Now I write, and do horoscopes as an astrologer.

How did you first become interested in Bali?

The first time I heard the song Bali Hai in the film South Pacific I was entranced by the idea of a mystical island that lay hidden away in some distant ocean. In the 80's I came to Bali for a brief holiday and never really left.

Have you traveled extensively in Indonesia?

I remember twenty years ago standing in the Garuda office in Sydney staring at a map of Indonesia. I bought an air pass, and that's how I found myself in the outer reaches of Java, Sumatra, Kalimantan and Sulawesi. The islands to the east came later by slow boat.

Why did you become a writer?

When I told people about my remarkable experiences in Bali they insisted that I write them down. My first book Bali Moon – A Spiritual Odyssey, published in 1998, tells of them. Writing it was an exorcism of the soul and the response to the book was amazing. Some readers related to the raw emotion of the experience and others were awe-struck that such things actually happened.

Have you written anything else?

Bali Magic – Reflections of a Reluctant Psychic was published in 2008. It chronicles my later experiences in Bali and merges personal experience with events of historical and spiritual significance. These needed to be shared so they could never be lost or forgotten.

What's special about your books?

My time in Indonesia was truly unique. It was 'the dark night of my soul' and I was challenged to grow but I was also privileged and blessed in many ways. Critics have said that my writing style has appeal because it's quirky yet honest, descriptive and dramatic which gives the books their sharp edge.

What made you explore the supernatural, an obvious theme in both your books?

The mystical is inherent in who I am, it defines me. I first became aware of it in my teens when I painted a giant astrological mural on my bedroom wall. Though my father's ancestry dates back to Toledo in Spain, my mother is Hungarian from Transylvania, which may account for my interest in the paranormal!

Did the writing of your books ever put you in danger?

The writing, but even more the living of my many mystical experiences placed me frequently in implicit danger. There are forces out there we don't understand and it appeared some of these took exception to having their secrets exposed. Strange things happened.

What writing project are you presently involved in?

I have just completed another book Hippos Eat Grass – Busting the Fat Myth. It's a witty look at weight issues based on astrology. It asserts that people, like animals, come in all shapes and sizes. Despite society's pressure to conform we should all appreciate our own unique beauty.

Do you have any future plans?

A third book about Bali is already underway. I would like to write a series of Hippos books that allow people to appreciate themselves and recognize the humorous side of life. I have many requests for horoscopes so I may concentrate on astrology for a while.

How may interested readers learn more about your work?

Anyone is welcome to contact me personally at odyleknight@hotmail.com or view my Facebook profile. For anyone interested in being considered for Siapa, please contact: pakbill2003@yahoo.com

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