



I have
schizophrenia,
and so does at
least one person
you know!



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One percent of the population is affected by schizophrenia. Half of the people with schizophrenia will attempt to commit suicide, of which a quarter will succeed. This is the story of one person's struggle with this disease. It is not biographical but a description of how this illness has stolen what many of us take for granted, such as the ability to love and the ability to receive love. The goal of this book is not to dwell on the misery of one poor soul, but to raise awareness about schizophrenia, to let people without the disease know what kinds of challenges those with the disease face, and to let people with the disease know that they are not alone.

R. J. Grigaitis grew up on the Canadian prairies, became a successful software developer, and an affectionate father. To most he seemed somewhat normal, but something was dreadfully wrong. In attempting to fully experience love, he inadvertently triggered a psychotic break and was hospitalised. With the help of modern medicine, he has experienced love, but it came at a very high price.

Sample Interview Questions:

Q: Who should read Bricks & Barbwire? What is the target audience?

Q: Bricks & Barbwire is a very short book; only 53 pages. Why is it so short? Couldn't you have added more detail?

Q: You say that very few books have been written about mental illness by people that actually have a mental illness. Why is that?

Q: In the first paragraph, you say that you have schizoaffective disorder. How is this different from schizophrenia? What is schizophrenia?

Q: Has your illness affected your promotion of Bricks & Barbwire?

Q: What do the bricks and the barbwire represent?

Q: Throughout Bricks & Barbwire you quote some songs that you have written. Can we expect a CD from you?

Q: In the first chapter, you mention that you've been working on other books. What are these other books?

Q: Can we expect a sequel to Bricks & Barbwire?