



Living with Epilepsy is Easy: It's Gaining the Acceptance of Others that's Difficult

In 2008, I attended one of Virginia's premier events, the African American Festival (Afr'Am). In its 25 years of operation, among many attractive vendors, entertainment sets, and cultural platforms, the writing seminars were and have always been the most fulfilling to me. This particular year was no exception. I am the co-owner of Lyrical4Cast Publishing; a company that takes great pride in producing quality products to deserving clients at extremely affordable rates. Of course, this type of atmosphere would be ideal to capitalize on clients; however, I registered for the seminar as a writer. Being an author, I wanted to expand my writing capabilities as well.

After experiencing an empowering session, I approached the coordinator to give my regards, when I was introduced to someone in the most unfathomed way. "Excuse me; will you take a picture of me and the instructor? My phone is acting up again," he said. An older fellow, Goliath-size in comparison to me stood there with a grin as wide as a river. "Sure," I said. "I'll take the picture with my phone and email it to you." We exchanged information but not before he asked to take a look at my book. He then said, "I've been working on a story also but I'm not quite finish yet. See, I'm just a poet." With slight irritation, I replied "And you will always be until you finish the book." Everything from that conversation on has been beyond mind's eye to this day.

The gentleman's name was Lowell G. Evans; a man that had been dealing with epilepsy for over 30 years since he was in college. Somehow we kept in touch and nearly a year or so later, he completed his novel. Mr. Evans, always being about business, replied back to the same email I sent him from the seminar to tell me about the book's completion. As an offer of help, I volunteered to read over his manuscript. I never once mentioned anything to him about publishing his work. *The Village*, his novel, was one tidal wave after another of emotion, family, trial, circumstance, and unfairness. I found myself staying up long hours of the night digging deeper into his story.

Eventually, after attending several epilepsy awareness campaigns and even volunteering to drive Mr. Evans to some national events out of state, we decided that our company should publish his book. In all of my days, I never imagined becoming so close to someone with a neurological condition that was quick-witted, jovial, loving, and an all-around man.

One of Lowell's famous lines: "I may have epilepsy, but epilepsy does not have me" has been adopted by numerous children and adults with the like condition. He is definitely a man of great character and a fighter for his condition's acceptance worldwide.

Sincerely,

Dreason Ruckett, Publisher | Lyrical4Cast Publishing, LLC