

Kalima and the respect for nature ft. Nestor Eguez

Welcome! In this interview article we have a special guest, Uruguayan writer Nestor Eguez, currently living in California.

Nestor's idea came about when he helped his children with a puppet show for school, writing a 12-page script. The idea evolved, becoming an educational book for children and teens, addressing the topic of respect for nature and animal rights.

So, Nestor, thank you very much for deciding to participate in this short interview. I would like to ask you, first of all, to tell us in detail what the story of Kalima (divided into two volumes: *Kalima: The Secret of the Jungle* and *Kalima: The Gift: Volume 2*) is about.

Well, first of all, let me tell you that the saga is a trilogy. The third and final Vol. Is coming out on July. The title is "How to write a Dream".

The tale is about a small and timid zebra in the middle of the jungle of Kenya. She is the last descendant of a very important group called "The Guides" well known for be strong leaders and good advisors of the herd. Unfortunately, she doesn't have any of this skills. Also, there is a big secret kept from generations that is going to be revealed to her and she doesn't have any clue about.

Kalima have her own dreams that are far apart from the her ancestors legacy. In a very long and amazing journey, at the end she is going to have the opportunity to fulfill "The Guides" duty, but in a very different way.

How did you develop the themes of the book? What did you want the reader to perceive from the book?

Two year after I wrote the small script, my kids and a good friend encouraged me to expand the story, saying that they saw potential in it. I did it, and in 2008 I finish a manuscript of 380 pages. Then with the resection coming, later in the year I lost my teaching job. Because that, this season was professionally very hard for me. I couldn't do anything with the story.

Later in 2010, following my son advise, I decided to split the tale in three volumes. Was there, when I realized the real message I want to send out. In the beginning I was focused only on the balance between your dreams and your heritage, because my personal experience with my parents. But, at that time I found also that the environment and human behavior was another important topics I want to include in the story.

What strategies did you use to get the attention of young readers?

When I wrote the small script for my kids, I did it in a funny way. Specially because had to be presented to an audience of high school students. Then, when I expanded the story, I kept the same style, knowing that could be more attractive for younger readers. Of course, good sense of humor is not coming against presenting a serious thematic.

What motivated you to turn the script into a book series, and what did you learn during your publishing journey? What were your struggles?

Well, I think part of this question, I already answered before. About the publishing thing, I self-published with Amazon on 2012. Was my only option back then, without money or the right contacts. They give Indie Authors a good chance to expose their material, for a fair price. Anyway, with no marketing, that usually is costly, the results aren't very well. On the other hand, traditional publisher are more interested in profitable books deals than good content.

In 2019, Goodreads selected the Vol. II of the collection for their reading list. This changed the game completely. After that, I had a few proposals, unfortunately the pandemic came, and everything was put on hold or forgotten.

Now, that things are slowly coming back to normal, I'm going to pursuit again with the project. We'll see what is coming next for this beautiful tale.

Did you have the opportunity to present the book in schools, in conjunction with educational projects?

Not really. Recently one film scientific organization from Spain contacted me, with the intention to make educational material based on the story. We're just on the evaluation process right now.

Well, Nestor, thank you again so much for your participation and for wanting to share the world of Kalima with us!

Feel free to leave, below, the links where you can find and buy the books, for those interested:

https://www.amazon.it/Kalima-Secret-English-Nestor-Eguez-ebook/dp/B019BPMRIC/ref=sr_1_1?_mk_it_IT=%C3%85M%C3%85%C5%BD%C3%95%C3%91&dchild=1&keywords=kalima+the+secret&qid=1622934150&sr=8-1

https://www.amazon.it/Kalima-Gift-Nestor-R-Eguez/dp/0692131604/ref=sr_1_1?_mk_it_IT=%C3%85M%C3%85%C5%BD%C3%95%C3%91&dchild=1&keywords=kalima+the+gift&qid=1622934290&sr=8-1

Thank you so much for the opportunity.

Best wishes

Nestor