

About Karen Atherton

What interests me as a storyteller is how our spirits live life on This Side and The Other Side. How we bridge the two realities. And how awareness of The Other Side makes for a more expansive existence here. It's like listening to Bach, Debussy and Schoenberg at the same time and grokking it.

I like to read books about life on The Other Side by psychics who travel there: Sylvia Browne, Echo Bodine, Anthony Borgia, James Van Praagh, John Holland, et al. I have forgotten my life on The Other Side, and they let me know what's happening there and what awaits me.

On This Side I began as an actor and studied for years in Chicago. After moving to New Orleans, I 'accidentally' took a playwriting class only because it was taught by a friend. After writing a monolog, dialog, and wordless action scene, I wrote my first play, *Desmoterian*, a one-act. It was so much fun, I took the advanced class and wrote a full-length and had more fun. After that I wrote a play each semester as an undergrad. One was produced, *The Wall of Crispian*, which takes place at The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall and brings together six dead soldiers and one's father, girlfriend, brother, grandmother and a Vietnamese woman. I was spellbound by my own play and definitely hooked on storytelling for the stage.

I began M.F.A. studies at The University of New Orleans as a playwright. But one semester, out of curiosity, I took a screenwriting class. I was so spacious and free; I could travel anywhere, anytime, in seconds, and I did. To Nazi Germany; The Akashic Council on The Other Side; Mars 2042; Medieval Sicily; Greece 200 B.C.; and a Shamanic Journey to Childhood. All space, time and dimension were mine to traverse through film. I received my M.F.A. in Screenwriting in 2008.

I just completed the screenplay, "*After Hitler Dies*", which asks: "What happened to Adolf Hitler's Spirit after he committed suicide?" Astonishing!

Presently I'm writing "*Remember The Ladies... otherwise we are determined to foment a rebellion*". This is a quote by Abigail Adams which describes the story perfectly.

Some of my favorite films are: *Blade Runner*; *Star Trek* with Kirk & Spock; *The Terminator I & 2*; *The Shawshank Redemption*; *Notorious*; *Wedding Crashers*; *High Fidelity*; *The Odessa File*; *The Boys From Brazil*; *Mephisto* ; and from Japan, *Kwaidan*.

And if I have a Credo, this is it:

*"We live not for ourselves but for God, The Great Spirit of the Universe,
For some purpose of Spirit's, for some special end to be accomplished
Which God has willed to be accomplished by oneself and not another,
Something which will be left undone, if we do it not
Or not be done as it would have been
If the one ordained to it had done it."*

(unknown)