

The Authors Notes
by Timothy F Burleson

As the author of "Eilese", I came to realize after years of writing and rewriting this play, that Eilese's world was a reflection of my own. A world of beggars, hustlers, saints, sinners, angels and demons.

I was born to a most incredible single mother as were my older brother and sister each of us navigating the unsupervised adolescent world of the American 1950s and 60s. The stolen kisses and broken puppy love hearts experienced in those vivid years gave birth to the ideas of love and hard knocks lessons learned that have informed the rest of my life.

Eilese, this story's protagonist, was originally inspired by a beautiful Young woman I once loved whose schizophrenia went undiagnosed while her family remained in denial about her illness.

My misguided original intent in writing Eilese was to blame and shame her family and instruct the world... Eilese had other ideas. She refused to accept the role of helpless witness to her tragic life and relentlessly demanded the freedom to make her own choices. I gave up arguing.

Born into an ill-fated world, Eilese finds herself the childhood victim of the tragic choices of others. Struggling against an inner world steeped in fear and self doubt and an outer world determined to thwart her at every turn Eilese must become what she has never been; herself.

I originally thought I created Eilese to tell the world something. Eventually I realized Eilese had been telling me something far more wonderful. Perhaps what she had been whispering in my ear all those years was only this: "One must learn courage and forgiveness to know love"

Thank you,

Timothy F. Burleson