

## Biography

Fiza Pathan was born on 19th March 1989 at Mandar Nursing Home, and grew up in her maternal home, in Bandra (West), Mumbai.

Her father, Iqbal, as she mentions in her book *The Reclusive Writer & Reader of Bandra: Essays*, abandoned her because she was a girl. She was brought up by her mother, Philomena Pathan, née Martis, who was a teacher at Bombay Scottish School, where Fiza herself went to school. Fiza does not have any siblings.

The young Fiza grew up surrounded by books, thanks to her school library, a loving librarian, Mrs. Ratnaswami, and a generous uncle, Blaise. Fiza believes that she is an amalgamation of the books she has read over nearly twenty-seven years and the places that have provided her with excellent reading material.

Fiza wanted to be a writer from an early age. She, however, wrote her first book of short stories *S.O.S. Animals and Other Stories*, a book described by reviewers as “timeless fables suitable for readers of all ages,” and “short stories that could be used as daily meditations by adults,” when she was in her first year at college.

Fiza studied at Saint Andrew’s College of Arts, Commerce & Science, which is affiliated to the Mumbai University, where she read widely outside her syllabus. Her knowledge of Classics, which was gained through reading in school and college, would one day come in handy for writing her award-winning non-fiction book, *CLASSICS: Why and how we can encourage children to read them*.

Her course included a year or two in Psychology, in which she excelled. But she elected to graduate in her favorite subjects, History & Sociology, which she did with a first class.

After her graduation, she moved to the Saint Theresa’s Institute of Education and graduated with a first class in Education, and her selected subjects: English and History. Fiza, now a trained teacher, began teaching at a prestigious ICSE school in Mumbai. It was there that a teacher, reading her palm, informed her that her left hand had a deeply etched mark of a pen, and she had always been a writer in earlier lifetimes.

Fiza conceived ideas for her first book, and for subsequent books, while playing with her toys and imaginary playmates and villains, narrating horror stories to children in the building, praying at church, or listening to oftentimes boring sermons at church or equally boring lectures at school. She wrote mostly in longhand and completed her first manuscript while in Saint Andrew’s College. But she published her first book of short stories only in August 2012 on the self-publishing platform, CreateSpace, an Amazon Company. From then onwards she never looked back, publishing her next book, *Treasury of Bizarre Christmas Stories*, in November 2012.

*Classics: Why we should encourage children to read them* followed in 2013 and was an instant hit, remaining on the bestseller list of top 100 in education and reference from September 2013 onwards till 2015, both on Amazon.com and Amazon.co.uk. This was followed by her book *CLASSICS: How we can encourage children to read them* which

fetches many awards and was described by the Eric Hoffer Committee as “destined to become a classic reference for the classics themselves.”

She wrote her first novella *NIRMALA: The Mud Blossom* in 2014 immediately after compiling her first book of poignant, heart-breaking poetry, *So This Is Love: Collected Poems* which was published in March 2014, followed by a short story “Flesh of Flesh: Short Story” in May 2014. This was followed by *The Flame Will Always Burn: Selected Poems* in June 2015, *Amina: The Silent One*, another novella, in August 2015 and *Raman and Sunny: Middle School Blues*, a Young Adult full-length novel in December 2015.

Fiza established her publishing company Fiza Pathan Publishing (OPC) Private Limited in May 2016. She had already begun work on her book of short stories focusing on problems faced by the LGBTQ community immediately after completing *Raman and Sunny: Middle School Blues*. But the company’s first offering in March 2017 was a combined edition of her award-winning books: *Classics: Why we should encourage children to read them* and *CLASSICS: How we can encourage children to read*. The title of the book is *CLASSICS: Why and how we can encourage children to read them*, and includes a special bonus feature “My Take on the Classics: A Memoir” by Fiza Pathan. It has been published under the company’s Imprint - Freedom with Pluralism®. This book has won multiple awards for both Fiza and her company.

Her book *The Love That Dare Not Speak Its Name: Short Stories*, a book which focuses exclusively on the problems faced worldwide by the LGBTQ community, was published in November 2017, and has won her and the company many prestigious awards in not only the LGBTQ category but also in Short Stories.

Fiza Pathan Publishing (OPC) Private Limited has also published Fiza Pathan’s back titles after fresh editorial work was undertaken on them. You can now find her award-winning novellas *NIRMALA: The Mud Blossom* and *Amina: The Silent One* in our catalog, perennial favorites with lasting appeal focusing on social issues. She has recently published *The Reclusive Writer & Reader of Bandra: Essays* in which she allows the reader a glimpse into her otherwise very reclusive life.

After finishing her manuscript, *The Love That Dare Not Speak Its Name: Short Stories*, Fiza decided to focus on abridging the ‘rare classics’ for children, excellent classics in themselves, but which have still not been abridged and illustrated for the younger generation of children. These books focus on the age group 7-12 so that the vast repertoire of classic literature is also available to them. Fiza has joined hands with a fellow writer, Michaelangelo Zane, and has so far published three titles. These are: *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* by the acclaimed writer Washington Irving, *Through the Looking-Glass: And What Alice Found There* by the equally famous Lewis Carroll, and *CARMILLA* by Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu who wrote his vampire story in the late 18th century and influenced the writings of Bram Stoker, the creator of *Dracula*. Six more classic titles have been abridged and will be published in the coming year.

## **Honours & Awards**

2018 Digital Book World Award Winner – Best Book Short Stories

2018 Digital Book World Award Finalist – Best Book Social Issues

2018 IAN Book of the Year Awards Winner – Outstanding Fiction LGBTQ

2018 Killer Nashville Silver Falchion Award Finalist – Best Short Story  
2018 Global Ebook Awards Silver Medal Winner – Fiction – Gay/Lesbian/LGBT category  
2018 Purple Dragonfly Book Awards Winner (Second place) – LGBT (E-Book)  
2018 Purple Dragonfly Book Awards – Honorable Mention – Family Matters (E-Book)  
2018 Montaigne Medal (Eric Hoffer Book Award) Finalist  
2018 Shelf Unbound Competition for Best Independently Published Book – Notable Indie  
2018 Independent Press Award – Distinguished favorite in LGBTQ Fiction  
2018 San Francisco Book Festival – Winner in category Gay  
2018 International Book Awards – Finalist in Fiction – LGBTQ category  
2018 Book Excellence Award – Finalist in LGBTQ Fiction  
2018 BookViral Millennium Book Award – Long Listed Authors  
2018 The Wishing Shelf Book Awards = Red Ribbon Winner  
2018 North Street Prize – Semifinalist  
2018 ScreenCraft Cinematic Book Contest – Quarterfinalist  
2017 Readers' Favorite International Book Awards – Gold Medal Winner in Education  
2017 CIPA EVVY Award – Gold Award Winner in Academic/Reference  
2017 Global Ebook Awards – Gold Award Winner in Education/Nonfiction  
2017 Literary Classics Book Awards – Gold Award Winner – College Instructional/Guide Book  
2017-2018 Reader Views Literary Awards – First Place in category "Crafts/Hobbies/How-To"  
2017-2018 Reader Views Literary Awards – Honorable Mention in category "Self-Help"  
Mom's Choice Awards® – Silver Award Recipient (May 2017)  
2017 Authors Talk About It Book Award – 3rd Place winner Nonfiction  
2017 New Apple Summer E-Book Awards – Official Selection in Nonfiction  
2017 Instructional and Insightful Nonfiction Book Awards - Shortlisted (The I & I Book Awards is a division of the Chanticleer International Book Awards and Writing Competitions)  
2017 The Wishing Shelf Book Awards - Finalist - Category Adults (Nonfiction)  
2017 Book Excellence Award – Finalist  
2017 IAN Book of the Year Award – Finalist in category "Self-Help"  
2017 New York City Big Book Award – Distinguished Favorites in Education  
2019 Independent Press Award – Distinguished Favorites in Education  
She maintains a personal website at <https://fizapathan.com/>  
Blogs at <https://insaneowl.com>  
and tweets under the Twitter handle [@FizaPathan](https://twitter.com/FizaPathan).  
Her company's websites can be found here: <https://fizapathanpublishing.us/> and at <https://fizapathanpublishing.org/> with a redirected domain <https://fizapathanpublishing.ink/>

Fiza Pathan is a member of:

Authors Guild, USA

PEN America

Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI)

Rave Review Book Club (RRBC)

Rave Writers International Society of Authors (RWISA)

Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA)

Updated on May 22, 2019