

Biography

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

As she mentions in her book *The Reclusive Writer & Reader of Bandra: Essays*, her father, Iqbal, 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, 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 wrote her first book of short stories *S.O.S. Animals and Other Stories* when she was in her first year at college.

Fiza studied at Saint Andrew's College of Arts, Commerce & Science, Bandra, Mumbai, where she read widely outside her syllabus. Her knowledge of Classics, gained through reading in school and college, would one day come in handy for writing her award-winning non-fiction book, *CLASSICS: Why we should 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 and 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 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 frequently boring sermons at church or equally dull lectures at school. She wrote mostly in longhand and completed her first manuscript while at 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 till 2015, both on Amazon.com and Amazon.co.uk. The sequel *CLASSICS: How we can encourage children to read them published in 2014* fetched many awards. The Eric Hoffer Committee described the book thus: "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*, in March 2014, and followed it with a short story "Flesh of Flesh" in May 2014. Her

second book of poems *The Flame Will Always Burn* was published in June 2015, *Amina: The Silent One*, a novella, in August 2015 and *Raman and Sunny: Middle School Blues*, a full-length Young Adult 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 *CLASSICS: Why and how we can encourage children to read them* 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 book was published in March 2017 under the company's Imprint - Freedom with Pluralism®. It has won multiple awards.

The Love That Dare Not Speak Its Name: Short Stories was published in November 2017. It focuses exclusively on the problems faced worldwide by the LGBTQ community and has won 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 with new editorial work. 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, great classics in themselves, but not yet 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 available. Fiza has joined hands with a fellow writer, Michaelangelo Zane, and has published four titles: *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, *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*, and *Daddy-Long-Legs* a coming of age book by American writer Jean Webster. Five more classic titles have been abridged and will be published soon.

She has recently published *Scenes of a Reclusive Writer & Reader of Mumbai: Essays*, that *Kirkus Reviews* has described as "A quirky, spellbinding collection that bibliophiles will relish."

Honors & Awards

Fiza Pathan has received many honors and awards, including:

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 E-book Awards Silver Medal Winner – Fiction – Gay/Lesbian/LGBT

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

2018 Book Excellence Award – Finalist in LGBTQ Fiction

2018 Book Viral Millennium Book Award – Long Listed Authors

2018 The Wishing Shelf Book Awards – Red Ribbon Winner

2018 North Street Prize – Semifinalist

2018 Screen Craft 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 E-book 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 the 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 the category "Self-Help."

2017 New York City Big Book Award – Distinguished Favorites in Education

2019 Independent Press Award – Distinguished Favorites in Education

And many more.

She maintains a personal website at <https://fizathan.com/>

Blogs at <https://insaneowl.com>

and tweets under the Twitter handle [@FizaPathan](#).

Company websites:

<https://fizathanpublishing.us/>

<https://fizathanpublishing.org/>

Fiza Pathan is a member of:

Authors Guild, USA

PEN America

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