

FLICKER AND A FIRESTARTER

By Amy Oestreicher

Flicker: Or, as a psychic once told my mother as I lay in a coma, “She’s deciding which way she wants to go.”

And, as my mother retorted, “Well, she doesn’t have a choice.” (*Psychic is then “escorted” out of the Pediatric ICU.*)

“**Fight, my warrior, fight,**” were the words my mother determinedly whispered to me throughout the months of my coma. Only she knew the real burn I was battling to save myself from: a secret that threatened to extinguish my inner fire, long before my external world, as I knew it, spontaneously combusted overnight.

So, how does a fitful movement of light, a smoldering glow, a molested teenager, a comatose nomad, or a paralyzed family learn to be more than a flash in the dark once they’ve been burned? After trauma, can we ever be more than a flicker in the dark?

Synopsis:

A young girl, Patricia, wakes up in a surgical ICU and to find her world forever changed. But even a coma cannot cool the burn of betrayal left from her abuser months before – a secret that only her mother knows, as she nervously waits by her daughter’s hospital bedside, along with her entire family. Forced to come to terms with a dark past she’s kept hidden from even herself, Patricia now faces another self, Patty, born from a trauma which she had hoped to forget. As the two dueling protagonists struggle to face one another, rekindle their memories, and sparking a bold, new identity, what other secrets will be illuminated? Together, can they put out the flames which now threaten to engulf their entire world? *Can a family move forward after fire?* Who will be burned by the fiery blaze of secrets, and who will rise from the smoldering ashes of trauma? Who puts out the fires that play with children? **Flicker and a Firestarter** is a poignant story of a family, ripped apart by fire, haunted by shadows, and reignited by the flickers of a heartbreaking past.