



KNOWING ME KNOWING YOU

BRIAN FINNEGAN

Published by Hachette Books Ireland

Publication date: 1st May 2013

Format: Trade Paperback Price: £12.99

**1983 – an unforgettable summer of rebellion, first love and shared secrets for four teenage friends and ABBA fans.
Three decades on and much has changed . . .**

Knowing Me Knowing You involved a personal journey back to 1983 for author Brian Finnegan. ‘I literally ate, breathed and slept ABBA then. My bedroom was plastered with posters of them and I lived in a fantasy where myself, Agnetha and Frida were best buddies.’

Of all the characters in *Knowing Me Knowing You*, including people-pleaser Maggie and reluctant celebrity Daniel, Brian identifies most with Noah, Daniel’s son. ‘I was bullied at school for being gay,’ Brian says, ‘and although I wasn’t as flamboyant as Noah, I did things to my detriment – although looking back, I was being strong-willed even though I felt weak.’

Noah’s experience of bullying is told from Daniel’s point of view, as Brian felt there are few stories about a parent’s experience of their child going through this ordeal. ‘The parents of bullied kids go through a hell of their own. I think that parents of overtly gay or flamboyant boys who are bullied sometimes ask themselves: How do we stop it? How can we protect him when he’s making himself so vulnerable?’

‘I like to incorporate a gay element into my stories but my lead characters are women, and when I’m writing, I think of myself as the ‘gay best friend’ of my female readers – we’re at brunch in the city, and I’m talking about sex, and love, and emotions, telling interesting stories, making my girlfriends laugh, and cry, and then laugh again.’

ABOUT THE BOOK

Maggie Corcoran is facing her own private Waterloo. Just when she thought her husband had returned to the family home for good, crying out for the comfort and sympathy Maggie excels at giving, he reconciles with the woman he left her for. And her children and sister only seem interested in requesting favours from her. So she's finding it difficult to confess that she's been diagnosed with breast cancer.

One day, while sitting in the waiting room at the hospital, she spots a photograph of old friend, ex-pop star Danny Lane in a magazine. As memories of the heady summer they spent together as members of the ABBA fan club Maggie created come flooding back, ABBA announces a reunion concert – one night only, in Stockholm.

And Maggie is struck by an idea – she'll instigate a reunion of her own, bringing the ABBAholics - Daniel, Charlie and Dee - together to attend the concert.

But she doesn't count on how much has changed for each of them, or realise how many secrets each of them are keeping hidden from one another.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Brian Finnegan is editor of GCN magazine. Prior to that he worked at In Dublin magazine and GI, an Irish fashion and lifestyle magazine where he was editor and co-creator.

He edited a book of short stories, *Quare Fellas* (Attic Press, 1994) and a non-fiction humour book, *Camp as Knickers* (Marino Books, 1995).

Over the past fifteen years he has been a regular contributor to newspapers, magazines, radio and TV, writing and broadcasting on gay politics and culture. He has also ghostwritten a number of celebrity autobiographies.

His debut novel *The Forced Redundancy Film Club* was published in 2012.

Knowing Me Knowing You is Brian's second novel.



Brian Finnegan lives in Dublin.

He is available for interview and to write features.

Follow him on Twitter @finneganba

For more information, or to arrange an interview, please contact Edel Coffey on edel.coffey@hbgie.ie/ 086 8456 550

The launch of *Knowing Me Knowing You* will be celebrated with a night of ABBAmania on Thursday May 9th at 7pm at The Odeon, Harcourt Street, Dublin 2.