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Monday, July 02, 2007

Book Review: Nothing Can Tear Us Apart

By [Brian Williams](#) | Published 05/22/2007 | [Book Reviews & Excerpts](#) | Rating: ★★★★★

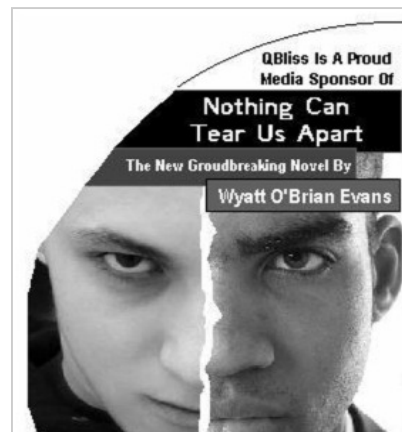
Book Review: Nothing Can Tear Us Apart

BRIAN WILLIAMS



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Wyatt O'Brian Evans is an innovative author who has just finished his first full-length novel, *Nothing Can Tear Us Apart*. Rather than merely producing titillating entertainment, Evans seeks to inform and educate "without being preachy." To avoid contributing to what he calls "cookie-cutter" characters prevalent in gay literature, Wyatt Evans completed social and psychological research prior to writing this novel. Evans even consulted a black clinical



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psychologist and other experts, in addition to drawing on his personal and professional experience, in order to make his characters authentic and relevant to his target audience.

In his work, he avoids the demarcated categorization that characterizes much of the portrayal of gays in literature and film, particularly gay men of color. His two main characters are Wes, a wealthy black gay man, and Antonio, his Puerto Rican lover. The two are strong, masculine men of color, and their various differences—age, culture and lifestyle—interact in unpredictable ways to produce an exciting love story.

Evans' work diverges from others' in its sensitivity to the nuances pervasive in life. Life hardly resembles fairy tales, and real-life heroes have struggles—internal as well as external. Of his primary characters, Evans notes that "the content of their character is sterling," but they are human: they have strengths and foibles. Due to his refusal to fall into dichotomies of extremes, Evans' characters exhibit a refreshing sense of reality, unlike other work in his genre. The world in which his characters live resembles the world in which Evans finds himself—a world that can't always be divided into black and white, or good and evil.

Evans, a communications specialist with two bachelor's degrees (in political science and journalism), says that he has "always been a writer." He began writing at an early age, creating his own comic books as a child. He has written for prominent publications, including *The Washington Blade* and *The Washington Post*. Evans considers himself a fresh voice amid the stale din that characterizes the current environment of gay literature. Evans - described by some editors and publishers as "bucking the trend" of gay literature - decided to self-publish to retain full control of his characters and keep them "bold and compelling."

Wyatt Evans communicates his own passion for life and for love through his characters. According to Evans, *Nothing Can Tear Us Apart* is an erotic fictional love story that is also an expression of his own sexuality. He describes himself as very "earthy" and "erotic," and these aspects of his own sexuality inform his characters in believable ways. The erotic aspect of his work is another reason he prefers to self-publish: he wants his work to retain its intensity.

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Evans has also written an electronic book called *Sinnin' in Da City*, an erotic story about two black lovers, their tumultuous relationship and eventual break-up. He likens their story to *Nothing Can Tear Us Apart* and notes that neither ends with "happily ever after." Evans' work imitates life in that it is often unpredictable and marked by struggle. He is currently working on another full-length novel and maintaining his own website (www.wyattobrianevans.com; after June 1st, he will be at www.wyattobrianevans.net).

Evans is promoting his work at several gay pride events in upcoming months:

- black gay pride in Washington, DC (Memorial Day weekend: www.dcblackpride.org),
- New York (in June), and Atlanta (Labor Day weekend: www.inthelifeatl.com);
- "Pride in the City", sponsored by People of Color in Crisis (in August: www.prideinthecity.com);
- and "Bear Invasion" (in August: www.bearinvasion.com).

In his willingness to buck current trends and his commitment to creating characters who are true to life, Wyatt O'Brian Evans embodies innovative creativity. The book can be purchased at www.lulu.com/content/833337. Check him out!

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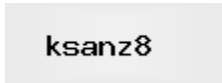
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