

Why I Wrote *Fragile* – Chris Katsaropoulos

Fragile evolved a bit from the time I first started thinking about it, as I suppose all novels or works of art must do. I first started thinking about how our lives are shaped and to some extent constrained by our relationships with others—how we view ourselves within the framework of how others see us.

Then I began thinking about how people can only be fragments of their entire selves to other people—and how I could intertwine fragments of the stories of three people who had a relationship with each other. I thought if I could show how these people were defined and involved with each other in very different and sometimes unintentional ways, it would make a quite interesting contrast and development of the characters.

Writing *Fragile* definitely helped me clarify and develop some of my own thinking about the relationships in my life and how people can become constrained by things that have happened in the past. It is a trap that anyone can fall into. Each of the ‘broken’ characters in *Fragile* finds their own way to freedom—and wholeness—through what are apparently very tenuous and flawed interactions with the other characters, in the end simply by letting go of the frameworks of old feelings and beliefs that have served to define them.