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Ruby
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Q: The narrative of *Ruby* alternates between the experiences of two characters—Ruby and Orion. To what extent did the decision to incorporate two narratives relate to the fact that this novel was written by two people?

A: We wrote everything together but Ruby's first person voice was based on Carmen's natural voice and Orion's third person narrative was something that we discovered together later. It was certainly helpful to have two authors in terms of creating contrasting narratives.

Q: How would you describe your process of collaboration?

A: It was quite mysterious and intuitive. We were able to pass the manuscript back and forth and add or change things so fluidly that now we don't know who wrote what or how we tuned in to each other so deeply. We feel this kind of collaboration between two women could be seen as a new paradigm of cooperative, non competitive creativity and if explored further might affect the way women work together and relate to each other in general.

Q: If *Ruby* were to be made into a major motion picture, who would you imagine playing the roles of Ruby and Orion?

A: Perhaps Bryce Dallas Howard for Ruby. Orion? Rupert Friend? or...? hmmm...

Q: Why did you decide to reveal the full details of Ruby's abuse relatively late in the novel?

A: Because the narrative follows Ruby's journey and she feels the full impact of this experience later in the story. It also adds heightened drama toward the end of the book. As Ruby dream is coming true her own psyche interrupts the experience by flooding her with painful memories. She has to face them in order to receive everything life has to offer her.

Q: What are some of the challenges in blending realism with the supernatural in your fiction?

A: We believe that realism enhances the surreal and vice versa. Both of our lives are filled with magic and we feel it is as significant to the story, and to our existence, as what is called reality.