

PALMER, from page 10

up so-and-so from the airport but when it comes to standing by, understanding and defending each other's artistic choices, we are each other's biggest champions.

"It is the rock on which our marriage is built. I wish it for any artist in a relationship with another artist."

Since Palmer and Gaiman travel independently so much, parts of their relationship are carried out through Twitter — gold for their legions of fans, who follow them like a fairy tale happily-ever-after. "All I try and remind people who idealize our relationship is, there are plenty of conversations we don't have on Twitter, guys," laughs Palmer. "As Amanda Palmer, the Queen of Too Much Information, I find it really difficult to look at the Internet and watch people waxing romantic about Amanda Palmer and Neil Gaiman's perfect marriage. I want to slam my head against the desk."

To navigate the choppy waters of intense love and infamy, Palmer returns again and again to the lessons learned on the streets of Boston, painted white and dressed in a second hand wedding dress. Her strategy for the "future of music" — studied by fledgling musicians, artists, record label executives and Bono alike — is, she says, the same as the tactics the Spare Change vendor followed. The advice for vendors, buskers or anyone trying to crowdfund on the Internet is the same:

"Don't focus on the people who are walking by and ignoring you, who have absolutely no interest in you. Focus on the small sliver of people who actually are engageable," she says.

"Don't get caught up in the painful dialogue of the other 99 percent of humanity who are walking by. If you focus on the people who are engaging with you and who are stopping, who are open to the conversation, you'll keep your head about you. Ultimately you have to ask, Who are your people? If it's one in a thousand people, that one in a thousand people is your audience. Love them."

With this in mind, Palmer has pledged to her husband, her editor and her mum that she'll avoid all reviews of the book. Which is fine in theory, but following her own advice is more problematic when the mud starts flying. "My job at the end of the day — hopefully — isn't to be a defender of Amanda Palmer, but to be an artist," she says. "Sometimes the former job can be more tempting because there's a greater sense of satisfaction in it or there's more ego tied up in it."

"All of my role models — and especially all of my female role models — grapple with the pain of controversy and anger. The ones I see succeeding succeed because they prioritize their actual work. On my bad days I forget that. On my good days I remember that the ability to have emotions and synthesize them into art is the gift I'm able to give back to the world — otherwise I am just a whining bitch."

Street News Service, International Network of Street Papers



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Passion

by Dennis

Passion is like two birds that nestle in nectar
like the fruit of honey of a rose stem
pain is to peer into the heart of the matter of rain
on a day with lightning
wonder is the imagination and thoughts
Given at a trigger of the body
in thought patterns.
Twice is tougher the first time
Given like a tide/rope
But it comes undone and carries on easier
lift is rarely found twice
But always given neatly & nicer
When found & never thrown away and saved for the final day.

Imagine

by Michael the Great

Imagine this as I touch your hand and softly ask to close your eyes
I lean over and you can feel my breath on your skin
It feels warm and safe, yet erotic and sensual
Our lips touch gently
You feel your pulse race
As though a pack of wild mustangs race through the desert heat
So bold and beautiful
Powerful emotions
You try to bridle them
But there is no use
Like the mustangs,
You too must be wild and free



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Poverty

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