A personal introduction to the special issue of the Jacob P. Waletzky Award

Kay Redfield Jamison

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Pain, particularly great pain, changes people in different ways. For some, it is transient and affects those close to them but few others; for others, the pain transforms not only the lives of those directly afflicted but, through their actions, the lives of many who were not touched by the original pain.

The sudden death of Jacob Waletzky at the age of 29 by a cocaine-induced arrhythmia brought about such transformative pain. Jacob, a graduate of Yale University, studied philosophy at the University of Chicago and had finished his coursework for an M.F.A. in writing at Columbia University. He was warm and hugely likeable. He was loved well and by many but, as is not infrequently the case, advantages of mind, education, and family did not guarantee an easy life for him, nor a life free from drug addiction.

Jacob's death devastated his family and friends. Jeremy Waletzky, his father and a psychiatrist, was hit hard by shock

and then by grief. Those of us who know Jeremy, and he has been my close friend for more than 25 years, watched him try to come to terms with Jacob's addiction and death. We also watched him as he struggled to find a way to help others, to bring some good from the suffering. After months of discussing a variety of possibilities with his family and friends, Jeremy and the Waletzky family decided to set up a prize for research in the basic science of addiction. The Jacob P. Waletzky Award, given to young scientists through the Society for Neuroscience, was first awarded in 2003 and is now an integral part of the scientific meetings of the Society for Neuroscience. The papers collected for this issue of *Psychopharmacology* mark the 10th year of the award and represent the exceptional work of the Waletzky awardees.

"Out of your wreckage," wrote the poet Robert Lowell, "came your book." Here, out of the wreckage, is a book of promise.

K. R. Jamison (✉)
The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, USA
e-mail: kjamiso1@jhmi.edu