

Sample Interview

To request an interview with Delise, email her at torresdelise@gmail.com

Q1: When did you first realize you wanted to be a writer?

A1: I only realized it when I was thirty-six. Before then, I'd never even considered myself as creative. I liked to write essays and reports, and had been complemented on my writing, but fiction was something I didn't think I could do.

Q2: What made you write a novel?

A2: I had always carried these daydreams in my head, like movies. I thought I was a freak my whole life. I moved to Germany and couldn't find a job, so one day I just wrote one of these daydreams, and I finally realized that those movies were actually scenes and characters. After I started writing, I couldn't stop.

Q3: Do you have any unusual writing quirks?

A3: I like to sing, so I enjoy creating playlists for my books. When I need to tap into a particular emotion for a scene, I like to sing a song that reflects that, to really feel it and get into that headspace. I also talk to myself aloud, so if I'm stuck, I have these discussions with myself to make sense whatever problem I'm having.

Q4: Where do you find inspiration for your books?

A4: Usually movies or songs. Lately, most of my ideas come from dreams. That's where the idea for ONE TOUGH COOKIE came from.

Q5: What is ONE TOUGH COOKIE about?

A5. ONE TOUGH COOKIE is about a Latina Fleabag, working at a cookie company, who loves her single, carefree life, and the hot new mechanic who threatens her defenses.

Q6: What is the bigger message you're trying to get across?

A6. For me, ONE TOUGH COOKIE is about accepting other people's differences and respecting their choices. Karina is very judgmental at the start of the book and as she opens up and learns more about the people around her, she becomes more accepting and lets them see the parts of her that she's not so proud of.

Q7: Why did you start with this first line “At Singular Cookies, Inc. cookies are like people, each with their own personality”?

A7. The book opens with Karina working, so I wanted to tie the cookie company to the scene. I also wanted to set the stage for one of the themes of the books, which is how we are all different. This is reflected throughout the book with each of the Singular Cookies and their personalities. There’s also a recurring theme of comparing cookies and cookie processing to people.

Q8: Is any of this story true?

A8. Some aspects of it are true but fictionalized, of course. The food inspection subplot is based on my own experiences as a quality assurance manager getting ready for an inspection, though the specific challenges Dwight faces in the book are not exactly the same.

Q9: What was the hardest part for you to write?

A9. It was actually the food inspection plotline. Though I had the background, it was challenging to tie this plotline into Karina’s journey and also to make it interesting. When you know a lot about a subject, you want to add a lot of information and educate the reader, but in the end, less is more.

Q10: What authors inspire you?

A. I’m mostly inspired by the authors that have helped me throughout my writing and publication journey. One of them is Lyn Liao Butler, author of the thriller, *Someone Else’s Life*. We met as critique partners, and she got the agent and the book deal way before me. Seeing her achieve those goals really inspired me to keep going. Another author I admire is Lainey Cameron, author of *The Exit Strategy*. Lainey was unable to sign with an agent but she published with a small press and her book has gone on to win multiple awards. She has taught me that there are different paths to publication and if you write a good book, you will find success.