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21 Things You Should Know About This Author

What book have you gifted the most? Why?

I have read many books in my life, different styles (fiction) and on various topics (non fiction). However, when I was 12 years old my attention was caught by a book written by the late Sidney Sheldon. Every week another extract of his novel “The other side of Midnight” was published in a magazine my mother read. I bought the book when I was 15 and have read it over and over again. Why? At the time I was drawn to the story like a magnet, but reflecting on it right now I think it was the mix of misery (Noelle), love (Noelle and Larry), betrayal (Larry with Noelle, Noelle with Demiris and finally Demiris with Noelle & Larry), power (Noelle and Demiris) and revenge (Noelle initially and ultimately Demiris). All ingredients we face in life as well.

What is the one productivity tool you use every day? Why?

I think it’s my mind! You can easily be led by emotions, but to reflect and listen to what your mind/inner self is telling you makes it the constant productivity tool of my life.

What word do you misspell most often?

Occasion, no clue why but I either forget the second “c” or add an additional “s”.

What three things do you do to be a successful writer?

Perseverance, patience and self confidence.

What are the titles of the last two books you have read?

For various reasons it has been a while since I touched a book, not in the least because I don't want to be influenced by the writing of another author when I'm writing myself. Before I started to write the series the last book I read was "The Notebook" from Nicholas Sparks after seeing the movie on a plane to Tahiti. Lately I have read several books on the topic of Alzheimer's, to learn and understand how I can facilitate my Mom in the best way.

What is your favorite word?

Love

What do you use more often – a dictionary or a thesaurus?

Until recently it was the dictionary, but it has been replaced for the thesaurus. So thesaurus it is!

What would you name the autobiography of your life?

My quest to the unknown (sorry, not very original, I know J)

What is your 'go to' munchie or drink while writing?

Still water to avoid me drinking too much coffee!

Is a picture worth a thousand words? Elaborate.

Sure, it tells a story in itself usually related to a good/bad memory you have with regards to something you experienced in life or someone you met/was very dear to you. I'm more like the type of person that only has pictures displayed in frames of people that are/were very important in my life of moments I treasure. From each photo I remember the setting and what made it so special.

What animal are you most similar to and why?

Definitely a Lion. Not only because I am born at the beginning of August, but mostly since a Lion is a strong animal, a leader of his kind going to the extreme to protect its herd. Like many people I had my piece of cake in life, but also due to how I was raised by my parents, I am mentally very strong, hence the similarity with the Lion. Until recently, I usually had management/director roles in the (US) companies I worked for. From time to time, a skill assessment was conducted which always indicated that my skill set is a good match with a leading position. Finally, I think like so many other people I feel I need to protect the ones I love and give them all I can to help them make their lives as nice as possible.

How would your best friend describe you?

She happened to be here when I was answering your questions, so here it comes: "Loving & caring but definitely straight to the point, cutting all bullshit when it's necessary to straighten me out. Intelligent, beautiful from the in- and outside and a very, very special person, someone you rarely meet during your life."

What keeps you up at night? (and don't say howling dogs)

Completing a video with a message for my Facebook page or finishing a chapter that I need to put on paper since the words are just coming out (and I can't sleep before it is finished). Apart from that; absolutely nothing anymore. I only need 4 to 5 hours sleep at night, so when I finally go to bed I am ready to take my nap! That was different when I was young. I kept on worrying about things that might happen relating to my job, my relationship, my income, you name it. Through the years I learned that you should not waste your time and energy (and therefore your sleeping hours) on things that will evolve during time and (usually) will work out itself eventually.

What is one thing you will never do again?

Marry with someone in a daze of love without actually knowing this person inside out.

If we came to your house for dinner, what would you prepare?

An Indonesian rice-dish, which entails many different dishes (like different kinds of cooked/fried rice, meat, chicken, fish and vegetables)

What is the best compliment you have received?

"I always feel loved and pleasant in your presence."

What question do you wish people wouldn't ask?

"How much money do you have?"

Reason: it's totally irrelevant.

Crowds, small groups or 'go away'?

Just depends on the context. I can be in crowds if I want to visit a concert or speech of someone. I prefer to be in small groups if I want to have meaningful discussions and I like people just to "go away" if I have mentally some things to sort out.

What would you sing at Karaoke night?

Well, I actually am not such a good singer, but it definitely would be "A Sky Full of Stars" from Coldplay.

If you had a warning label, what would yours say?

Don't interfere with my life and tell me how to live it.

What is the one question you wished I would have asked you? Why?

"How did your parents influence your life?"

Since I believe that education is the cornerstone of (a part of) your mindset, I just wanted to emphasize that the way I was raised, definitely also made me to the woman I am today. I owe a lot to my parents. They were "rich" in the values they taught me in life, although from a

material perspective they didn't have much money. Both their own lives (war and practically trying to grow up on their own without parents and in the case of my father without other direct relatives) as well as the way they lived made me strong and appreciative of how life is treating me. The endless love they gave me was for them a given, like giving love to others is a given for me right now.