

Author Interview With Lynda Filler by **Itsy Bitsy Book Bits**

How Did You Get Into Writing?

- I began to publish poetry in the good-old Myspace days. I promised myself I would start to publish after I lived through a "6-months-to-live" diagnosis in 2008. I've been publishing Poetry Memoir and Fiction both Contemporary and Mystery ever since.

What's Your Favorite Genre to Write?

- I'm conflicted. I can't choose between fiction/non fiction, Contemporary, Espionage and Memoir

How many published books have you written?

- 17

Who are some of your inspirations?

- Definitely Daniel da Silva, maybe his earlier Gabriel Allon series.

Do any of your stories have personal experiences in them?

- Absolutely. I've used personal experiences in my espionage, contemporary fiction and of course memoir. And my poetry is often a diary of my life.

Who are some of your favorite authors to read?

- Daniel Silva, John Grisham, Nora Roberts, Dan Brown

Do you write one book at a time or do you have several going at a time?

- Usually one at a time.

What are some of your hobbies?

- Travel, learning about cultures, studying people, photography

What has been your most rewarding experience since publishing your work?

- I love when people reach out to me personally. Writing fiction is so entertaining, but memoir for me is inspirational. So when I hear from someone who feels I've made a difference in their fears, pain, heartache, I'm inspired to continue in my writing career.

When reading reviews, what is something you love to see written?

- I received a review today that said it all "When you begin a book by Lynda Filler you better leave time to finish it in one sitting." That's the same kind of reader I am so I get I'm thrilled to deliver that in return to my fans.

If you could spend the day with one of your characters, who would it be and what would you do?

- Gabriel Allon without a doubt. For those who don't know he's an Israeli spy who is also an art restorer in Venice. But as I've grown during his series of work, so has Gabriel and he now works as the head of The Office--the name for the Israeli Mossad. I tell everyone Gabriel is my book boyfriend.

What are you currently working on?

- Book 8 in the Code Raven series! I'm so excited for this book. There was a huge surprise not plotted by me in The Istanbul Conspiracy (I LOVE when that happens) and now we all have to see where it leads! I have no idea where this book is going yet... but my Muse will tell me when I begin to focus on the transition from memoir to spies!!

What's your writing routine?

- I get up sometime between 8 am and noon. Don't laugh! Many nights I go to sleep somewhere between midnight and 5 am. I blame it on Istanbul, Turkey where I'm currently living. If you want to know how a Canadian girl who spent the last 8 years in Mexico is suddenly in Istanbul, read CAFE CONFIDENTIAL. I tell it all!

Do you have any superstitions when it comes to writing? If so, what?

- no

What is the best writing advice you've ever received?

- Just do it.

Where do you find the names for your characters?

- Some are fictional. Some in honor of friends who have passed. My Code Raven series has been named for 5 people in my life. And my stories have a base in fact although I can't say that...it might be dangerous.

What is your favorite book made into a movie/tv show?

- I enjoyed The Devil Wears Prada, I think I can relate it to my early career in fashion.

Anything else you want your readers to know about you?

- Yes. When I say my memoir is intimate and unfiltered, I mean it. I've never been a woman who hides behind her choices even if they might show me in a bad light to some more conservative readers. I am who I am and it's served me well up until now. Or maybe I just see the glass as half-full instead of half-empty and now everyone will relate to that. I'm grateful for every single moment of my life even when I was told I was dying. I think pivotal moments like that really remind us to live and love and never look back with regrets.

If you won the lottery what would you do with the money?

- I would keep enough for myself to never have to be concerned with money again. And the rest I'd take enormous pleasure distributing it to causes I believe in, poverty, disadvantaged children, definitely the migrants, groups who fight against racism--my list is endless.

In your everyday life how do you give back to the world?

- In the only way I know how: the power of the pen. You will find my comments all over the internet on the social issues that I espouse. I write. If I can enlighten even one individual to see the world in a different way, I'm happy. You will see in CAFE CONFIDENTIAL the theme of my past two years has been #WeAreAllOne

If you could give your younger self one piece of writing advice, what would it be?

- I would have pushed myself more and written more. But I would also say live without regrets. When the time is right, you will make your voice heard.

What's your favorite genre to read?

- Most fiction, espionage, contemporary, Memoir.

If your life was a song what song would it be and why?

- I make a playlist with every book I write. "I've Been the Archer" by Taylor Swift. I think the words are incredible. A book critic in New Delhi told me to start listening to her. And now I'm addicted. Why The Archer? I think in my life I've been both "the archer and the prey" "I've been the archer
- I've been the prey
- Who could ever leave me, darling?
- But who could stay?" I'm at a time in my life when I would have to say "Help me hold onto you." Taylor Swift's words are universal.

Name two authors you wish more people knew about

- I really enjoyed reading the Endgame series by Skye Warren. I have too many to mention!