

1. What was your first fandom you ever joined (if you were into a fandom). Did you read fic for it? Have you ever written fic?

I was obsessed with *The Babysitter's Club* books as a kid, and if we weren't writing on stone tablets then, it would have totally been a fandom! I wrote my own stories for it in my head, so I think that counts as fanfic.

My first real fandom was the British version of *Skins*. It was the first time I discovered femslash and found a community of superfans I wanted to join! I didn't write any fanfic for it, but I read TONS of it.

Later, when *Once Upon a Time* came out, I was instantly obsessed. I joined Tumblr and wrote a few fanfics for it. It was a ton of fun and gave me the courage to write original stories.

2. Many of your characters are Cuban women living in Florida. How is this influenced by your own life/experiences?

I'm a first generation Cuban-American who was born and raised in Miami, so I'm just writing what I know! A lot of these great characters are the kinds of people you would meet if you lived here. (At least that's what I'm going for).

3. In many of your books, including *Guava Flavored Lies*, *Objecting to Her*, and *Fighting for Control*, you feature rivals/enemies to lovers. What is it about that trope that you enjoy?

It's my favorite trope! I like that it has conflict baked into the story from moment one. Writing dialogue is also my favorite part of writing, and enemies to lovers provides me such a great opportunity for witty banter.

The kind of sexual tension you get in an enemies to lovers is just impossible to beat. Every moment between the characters is so charged with tension and anticipation.

4. What part of the writing process strikes you, first (a plot line, a single scene, the characters, etc)?

It depends, but usually I start with the conflict (why can't they get together on page one and ride off into the sunset) and then I spin out to what kind of characters would find themselves in that conflict.

For example, *Guava Flavored Lies* started with the rival bakers concept, and then I crafted the two kinds of people who would continue to engage with each other despite mutual dislike.

So after I have the conflict, and the characters that naturally grow from that conflict, I get the plot.

5. You also feature an age-gap trope in several of your works (including *Destination You*, *The Goode Governor*, and *The Love Conspiracy*) – but, in a twist that is fairly rare in the sapphic romance world, your age gaps don't always feature an ice queen! What is it about this trope that draws you in?

What intrigues me is the opportunity to delve into the contrasts and compatibilities that an age difference can bring to a relationship. It's not just about the tension and power dynamics often associated with the ice queen trope – but also about mutual learning, emotional growth, and the unique blend of vulnerabilities and strengths each character brings to the table.

It is usually such an unexpected romance for both characters – and it's exciting to watch them get knocked over by love when they weren't expecting it and from a person they never saw coming.

Also, we all agree older women are hot, right?

6. What is your favorite idea that you haven't yet written?

I really liked the idea for *The Love Conspiracy*. Initially, it was inspired by the song *Two Black Cadillacs* by Carrie Underwood where a wife and mistress get together to exact revenge on the unfaithful husband. But instead, in my story, the wife and mistress end up getting together. It ended up being a very emotional story about internal growth and letting go of expectations, but a little part of me still wants to write the very dark version of that. Maybe a romantic suspense?

7. What is your favorite meal?

Everything my wife cooks is my favorite meal! She can make literally anything. If I'm really lucky, she'll make me Honduran breakfast (handmade tortillas, refried beans, an egg, crema, and a little bit of fried cheese. Oh, and there's SPAM in there too. It is unreasonably delicious).

8. You've written several series. When you start one, do you know it's going to be a series/what characters are going to be featured?

I prefer writing standalones, but that's mostly because I hate being told what to do (even if its me telling me what to do lol). But when I've written series, I do have a rough sketch of what the series is going to be like, and who is going to be in the subsequent books so that I can leave a little trail of curiosity breadcrumbs for the reader to follow.

In my most recent series, *Dominion*, I had finished writing book 1 when I realized it actually needed to be book 2. So that was a fun surprise.

9. If you had to pick two of your main characters (from different books) to be best friends, who would they be? And who, if any, would be enemies?

I write so many incredibly strong and independent women – I think they would all respect each other even if they're somewhat different.

Lauren from *Guava* and Carmen from *Fighting for Control* would be instant BFFs. They're both easy going, funny, warm little otters.

Their respective partners from the same books, Sylvie and Lola, are both the same kind of tightly-wound and overly defensive neurotic little racoons – so I think they would instantly clash. I actually started writing a cross-over short based on this idea!

10. Who is your own personal favorite character in any of your books?

It's so hard to pick a favorite! I love them all differently.

This answer would probably change depending on the day, but right now I would say Lola from *Fighting for Control*. I was able to really explore the damage that parents can do to their children without knowing it, and how a person can heal that damage and learn to let go of dysfunction in a loving and supportive environment.

Lola also demonstrates incredible resilience and shows that the most badass thing a person can do is be vulnerable.

11. What book got you into reading?

I've always been a voracious reader, so I can't remember the exact book, but it was probably one of my mom's hand me down Nancy Drew mysteries.

12. What book got you into reading sapphic romance?

Clare Lydon was my gateway drug! She's always an auto-buy. Her humor and heart are always top notch.

13. If you could pick one song to epitomize your characters, what would it be? One song each, for as many characters as you'd like to answer with.

Sylvie (*Guava Flavored Lies*) - *Thank You for the Venom* by My Chemical Romance

Lauren (*Guava Flavored Lies*) - *Después de la Playa* by Bad Bunny

Roxy (*Losing Control*) - *Serial Heartbreaker* by Fletcher (before Adriana) AND *Honey* by Kehlani (after Adriana)

Adriana (*Losing Control*) - *Cosmic* by chloe mk

Lola (*Fighting for Control*) - *Fist City* by Loretta Lynn

Carmen (*Fighting for Control*) - *Has Anyone Ever Written Anything for You* by Stevie Nicks

Natalia (*Relinquishing Control*) - *she calls me daddy* by KING MALA

Sam (*Relinquishing Control*) - *Queen Bee* by Lauren Sanderson

14. What is your favorite Taylor Swift song and/or lyric?

My favorite lyric would be: “you made a rebel of a careless man’s careful daughter,” from *Mine*.

Favorite song: *Willow*.

15. Have you ever read a book – or fanfic – that is *criminally* underrated? Now is your chance to advertise it:

*Golden Hour* by Kat Jackson!

Her character work is some of the best I’ve ever read in any genre. She writes such beautifully flawed and deeply human characters you desperately want to root for. Her prose is gorgeous and subtle and she’s written lines that make me close my eyes and savor them. Absolutely brilliant author!

16. What would you title your auto-biography?

*The Importance of Stretching* by JJ Arias

17. You write many tropes (as already mentioned, enemies to lovers and age gaps) – do you have a favorite to write? Is it the same as your favorite trope to read?

Enemies to lovers and age-gaps of course BUT I am also such a sucker for a trapped together/one-bed trope! I don’t think I can ever get enough. If my editor let me, I’d write them in every book. I love to read them too.

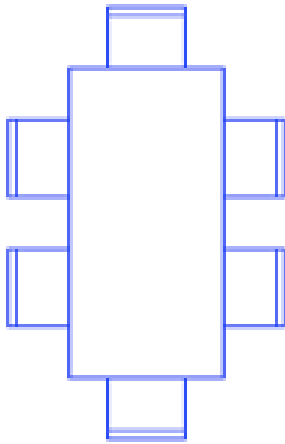
18. Finally – where would you put these characters on this seating chart:

Since Charlotte is American political royalty, she’ll go at the head of the table. Next to her, Raquel (a history professor) would be very interested in Charlotte’s grandmother’s story and the interesting bits that may not be common knowledge. Across from Raquel will be Colonel Keane, who – as a brilliant surgeon – I think would have a lot to add to an intellectual conversation. Abby would be very engaged in their conversation and adding a bit of British Royals gossip because she, like everyone else in the world, is wondering about Kate Middleton.

Baylee will have had every intention of going to chat up Abby, but got distracted when she saw the bar. While Baylee is waiting for her bourbon, she starts chatting with Scarlett who she finds fascinating and decides to interview her for a piece called: *My Night with*

the Lady of Death, Scarlett – as an assassin – is standing in the doorway because she would never walk into a room full of potential danger. While talking to Baylee, Scarlett has her sights set on Raquel, because curvy women are her kryptonite.

Raquel Alonso from *Destination You* by you  
Charlotte Thompson from *Those Who Wait* by me  
Abby Porter from *Before you Say I Do* by Clare Lydon  
Baylee Lawrence from *The Flight Risk* by Macon Leigh  
Rebecca Keane from *Ask, Tell* by EJ Noyes  
Scarlett Grey from *A Game of Hearts and Heists* by Ruby Roe



Explain your reasoning :)