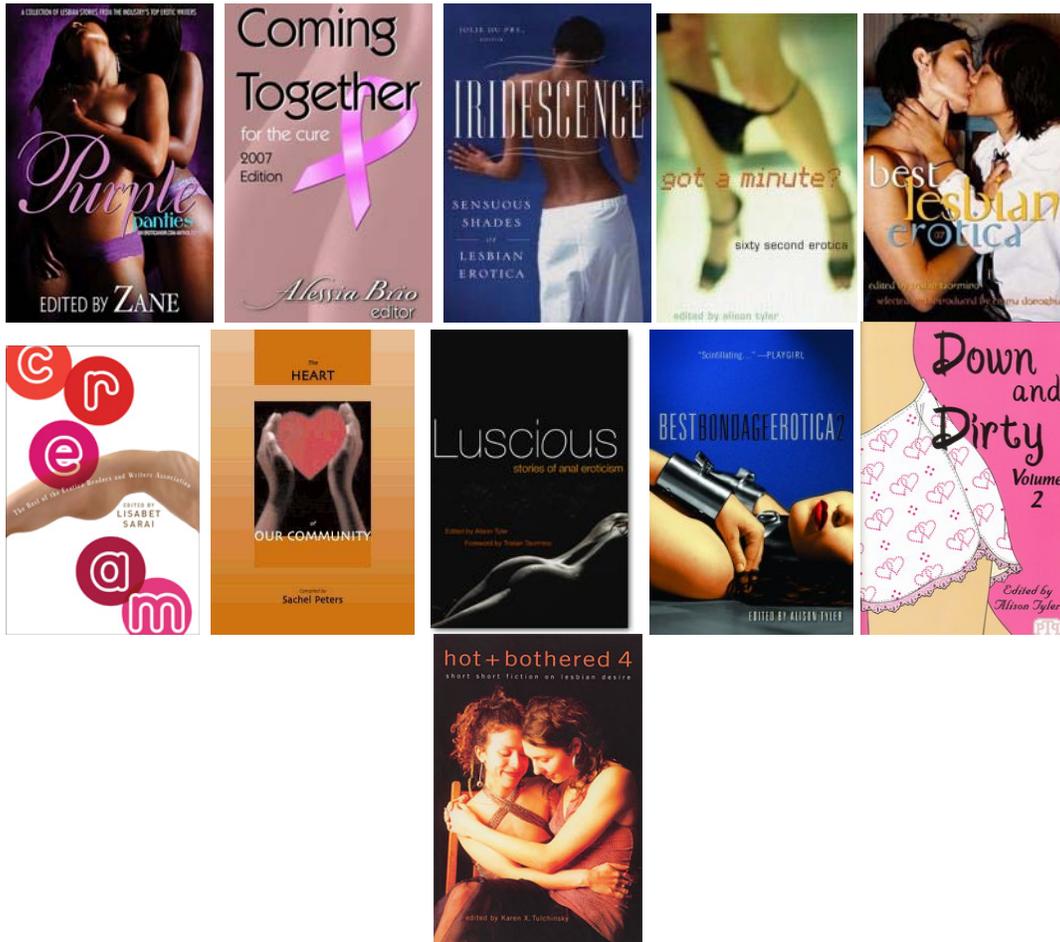


Jolie du Pre Interview by Moondancer Drake



[Jolie du Pre](#) is a writer of lesbian erotica and lesbian erotic romance. Her stories have appeared on numerous websites, in e-book and in print in *Best Lesbian Erotica 2007* and more. Jolie is the editor of *Iridescence: Sensuous Shades of Lesbian Erotica*, published by Alyson Books. She is the founder of [GLBT Promo](#): a promotional group for GLBT erotica and erotic romance. She is the moderator for the [Erotic Authors Association's blog](#) and she is also a weekly contributor to [The Blushing Ladies Journal](#).

- [Jolie's published short stories](#)
- [Online work](#)
- [Coming together for the cure](#)

Now, let's get on to the interview. Enjoy!

Moon: Think of the person you most admire. How would they describe who Jolie du Pre is?

Jolie: The person I most admire is really a combination of people. But these people all share one characteristic and that's perseverance. Two quote Dylan Thomas, "Do not go gentle into that good night." Do not give up. I would hope that the people I have in mind would describe Jolie as a person who doesn't give up.

Moon: What sorts of things have tested that determination? Growing up and now.

Jolie: My determination really wasn't tested until I became a writer, and this is only because I had an interest in getting published. It's not so much that I've had to deal with lots of rejections, it's more my frustration with the way some editors and publishers behave. With the way authors are treated, it's not unusual to have feelings of wanting to give up.

Moon: When did you first know you wanted to be a writer?

Jolie: I knew I wanted to be a writer when I had my children. I was a stay-at-home-mom for the most part, and I was no longer working full-time jobs. I wanted to find something I could do from home. Writing interested me so I looked into Young Adult fiction writing. I did well with it, but I didn't enjoy it as much as I thought I would. It wasn't until I found Erotica that I got really excited. (No pun intended.) LOL

Moon: What about erotica do you think really resonated with you?

Jolie: I have an interest and an open mind about sex, and because of my attitude I wanted to explore sex with the written word. Viscera, edited by Cara Bruce, was the first erotica anthology that I read - and I devoured it. I knew after reading that book that Erotica was meant for me.

Moon: Has this exploration had a noticeable effect on your day to day life?

Jolie: I can't say that it's really noticeable. I am who I am. I was more of a prude when I was younger, but that's only because I was worried about what other people thought. Now I'm old and I don't care. LOL

Moon: Do your kids know you write erotica?

Jolie: My children are 16 and 13 and very bright. So even though I haven't told them, they probably already know. I don't make it a point to hide my erotica books, for example. I don't leave them laying around, but they are on bookshelves. They see R rated movies. They see my art books that often contain nude photos. I don't hide that. I don't hide a lot from my children. I firmly believe that's one of the reasons why they're so bright. But Erotica is for adults, so when my children become adults I'll tell them.

Moon: You're married, right? Has your husband read your books?

Jolie: Yep, I've been happily married since 1987. My husband is supportive, and he has read a few of my stories, but he doesn't read much erotica.

Moon: You mentioned Viscera. What other books have you read that you really enjoyed?

Jolie: I read a wide variety of literature, not just Erotica. Currently I'm reading *The Portable Obituary - How The Famous, Rich, and Powerful Really Died*, by Michael Largo. It sounds ghastly, and maybe it is, but it's packed with information and statistics. I like that kind of stuff. My favorite erotica books, so far, are *Wetting the Appetite*, by Blake C. Aarens and *Entangled Lives*, edited by Marilyn Jaye Lewis.

Moon: I know you've been involved in editing an anthology yourself. Can you tell us a bit about what that process was like?

Jolie: My first anthology is *Iridescence: Sensuous Shades of Lesbian Erotica*, published by Alyson Books. It came about because I wanted to see more characters of color depicted in Erotica. In each story the main character is a woman of color - African American, Asian, Latina, Indian, and more. It really is a marvelous representation of every shade, like a brilliant rainbow. From start to finish the anthology took about a year to complete. I'm very proud of the stories I accepted for *Iridescence* - works by Fiona Zedde, Rachel Kramer Bussel, Sofia Quintero, Jean Roberta, Cheyenne Blue and many more. *Iridescence* has received nothing but stellar reviews. A current [review](#) can be seen at the Erotica Readers Association.

Moon: Was it easier or harder to edit another author's work rather than your own?

Jolie: My job was to pick the best possible stories for the anthology. After that, Alyson had an excellent professional copyeditor review the manuscript and consult with me on any changes or corrections.

Moon: Was it frustrating for you to not see many women of color in erotica? In what ways could people work to change that?

Jolie: It was very frustrating, which is the reason why I wanted to put together a anthology that focused on women of color. I had two choices - I could continue to complain about the lack of color in erotica or I could do something about it. I chose to do something about it. The result is *Iridescence*, and I'm very proud of the book and proud of Alyson for agreeing to publish it.

The best way for people to change the lack of characters of color in erotica is to write stories with characters of color! That means that authors are going to have to get over the fear that they won't get it right. Many authors have told me that they are afraid to use a character of color in their stories because they fear they may offend the minority group by depicting the character wrong. Authors need to get over this fear. If you do your homework, you'll be fine.

Moon: I agree that proper research and intent is the key. So, thinking about all the things you've written, what was the most challenging when it came to research?

Jolie: I wrote an M/F erotica story, a few years ago, that was set in the 1800's before slavery was abolished. I worked hard to make sure my facts were correct.

Moon: Wow, what a great sounding story. Historian's are a huge challenge. What other things besides cultural diversity would you like to see more of in erotica or fiction in general?

Jolie: I'd like to see more varied and original themes. The tried and true is often boring.

Moon: What was the first thing you ever had published?

Jolie: I entered one of my young adult fiction stories in a contest sponsored by a Canadian newspaper. I won the contest, so they published the story. My first erotica story was "3:30" published in Venus or Vixen, an erotica e-zine that was headed by Cara Bruce and that's no longer in existence.

Moon: That was the YA writing contest you won in 1998? What other awards has your talent earned?

Jolie: Yes, that's the one. Another significant award was given by Fallen Angel Reviews. My e-book "Smile Like You Mean It" was one of their 2005 Books of the Year.

Moon: What a charge that must have been! Do you think you'd ever try your hand at YA again, or do you think erotica is your creative home for good?

Jolie: No, I'll never return to YA. The passion I have for erotica was not present when I wrote YA. I will be quitting my job next year and will write full-time. My first day as a full-time writer will happen on May 1 of 2008. I will continue to write erotica and erotic romance, but I will also pursue other forms of fiction and also non-fiction.

Moon: Is your family supportive of your choice to become a full time writer? What made decide to take the plunge?

Jolie: My family is in total support. Currently, I have two jobs. I work at a computer training center during the day and then in the evening I come home and write. It's very stressful to have two jobs. It's taking a toll on my mental and physical health and I can no longer do that to myself. I've always wanted to write full-time -when the time was right. And now the time is right. Once I quit my day job I'll have time to exercise in the morning, write during the day, and have time with my family in the evening. Everyone wins once I quit my day job. It's going to be a wonderful life.

Moon: It's a brave step, I commend you for taking it. You mentioned pursuing other types of fiction and non-fiction. That's quite a step too, branching out. Anything particular inspiring that, or are you leaving your options open?

Jolie: I have a very supportive husband, so that makes the step of writing full-time more of an exciting step for me rather than a scary one. Also, I've been writing for over five years, so this isn't something that's happened overnight.

I'm seriously pursuing freelance. (Limiting myself to lesbian erotica will minimize my earnings.) I intend to write lesbian erotica, bisexual erotica, straight erotica, other forms of fiction (non-erotic) and non-fiction. Within that I also intend to continue with my editorial pursuits. I edited Iridescence and now I have two new erotic anthology proposals that are currently under consideration at two different publishers.

Moon: I heard you have a story that's been recently contracted by Simon and Schuster for an anthology their doing. Tell us more about that.

Jolie: Oh, I'm very happy about that! It's Zane's PURPLE PANTIES anthology. PURPLE PANTIES is an erotica anthology where the stories feature lesbian activities with African Americans in one or more of the key roles. I've written a lot of African American lesbian erotica in the past, so this call for submissions was perfect for me. The fact that the book is published by Simon and Schuster makes it even more exciting. I will continue to work with the publishers that produce GLBT and literary erotica, but working with New York publishers that are producing African American works is a real interest of mine. These works are being read by a lot of people. I have stories in literary erotica anthologies where mine are the only ones that feature African American lesbians or even characters of color, for that matter. In PURPLE PANTIES my African American lesbian erotica is one of many. That feels good. I don't have to limit myself to literary erotica.

Moon: What challenges have you faced being a woman, a writer of color, and/or a bisexual woman in the erotica marketplace?

Jolie: None in the literary erotica world. With erotic romance, however, I've had to deal with homophobia. There are still publishers and editors who think romance is strictly heterosexual. Once I was a member of a Yahoo romance/erotic romance list where the list owner was incredibly homophobic. I've had to deal with other lists where some of the members were that way. Romance reviewers can be that way as well. Stupidity and ignorance is extremely unattractive, and there's not much more you can say about it.

Moon: I agree wholeheartedly with ya there. There are a lot of odd ideas about what counts as “real” romance, as if one person has all the answers on love. I find that's the same way with opinions on what's more marketable, acceptable, even down to publishing.

What's your view on the marketability of print and e-books. Do you find them comparable? Have you had any more trouble promoting one than the other?

Jolie: The only e-books I've investigated are the erotic romance variety. Unless your subject matter appeals to heterosexual women - forget it. But if your subject matter does appeal to heterosexual women, there is money to be made. With print I've always been free to write what I like, which is lesbian erotica, without worrying about the market. I will continue to write e-books, but they will no longer be lesbian.

Moon: Tell us about the work you do with the [Erotic Authors Association](#).

Jolie: I created the blog for the Erotic Authors Association and I am the moderator of the blog.

Moon: What drew you to want to get involved with the Erotic Authors Association? Do you find it a place you would recommend for other writers interested in the erotic genre?

Jolie: As an erotica author it's important for me to be a member of valid and recommended erotica organizations. EAA used to be headed by Marilyn Jaye Lewis and I have a lot of respect for her. I would highly recommend EAA to every writer of erotica.

Moon: I hear you are a very active blogger. Where can people go to see these tidbits of Jolieness? :) Do you find blogging an effective self-marketing tool?

Jolie: Actually, I don't blog as much as I should, but that will change once I start writing full-time. Currently I have two blogs. I have my [personal blog](#) which is

duplicated at my [MySpace page](#) and I have [True Erotic Tales](#). True Erotic Tales is where authors post essays, so it's not just about me and my life.

Blogging is an excellent promotional tool and I encourage every author to start a blog. It's easy to do and you can do it for free.

Moon: I've seen some great reviews for Iridescence recently. How you found them useful for bringing new readers to your work? How much do reviews influence you as a consumer?

Jolie: Thanks! All of the reviews for Iridescence have been excellent. I'm very proud of the stories I selected and of the authors who wrote them. It's hard to tell how much reviews help with promotion, but if the reviews are good it certainly doesn't hurt. I often read reviews, so they can influence what I buy.

Moon: You mentioned that reviews sometimes influence what you buy. What else gets your attention when you're shopping for a book? A good looking cover, a catchy blurb, or a clever title?

Jolie: They say "never judge a book by its cover," yet we all do it. A nice cover is definitely an eye catcher. The title does it sometimes for me as well. But I'm mostly influenced by reviews.

Moon: Out of curiosity, when it come to cover art what types are you favorite? Symbolry, people, landscapes, artsy? Do you have a few favs covers you'd like to mention?

Jolie: There are lots of covers that I like. Cleis Press produces the most beautiful covers I've seen.

Moon: Rumor has it you're a big music buff. What bands/songs really get you going?

Jolie: Alternative rock is my favorite - Marilyn Manson, Garbage. When I was a teenager I listened to a lot of David Bowie. But I'll dance to Britney Spears, sit back and relax to Amy Winehouse, and snap my fingers to Dolly Parton. I listen to everything.

Moon: It's been a ton of fun spending this time with you. Before we go I have one last question to ask. What things have you learned as a writer you'd like to share with those out there just getting started in the business?

Jolie: I've learned a lot about writing over the years. The most important thing I've learned is patience. If you are not a patient person you will have a hard time with the business of writing. Editors and publishers will contact you on their time

- not yours. You need to realize that. The second most important thing I've learned is to respect my style and to continue to strengthen it. I'm not interested in trying to write like someone else. The third most important thing I've learned is persistence. Keep at it. Never give up, no matter how hard it gets. If you really love being a writer, you'll keep at it through the bad times as well as the good.