

Librarian's Shelf by Kelli Keyes

Renowned Author Coming to Your Library

Have you ever been in the presence of someone that you are in absolute awe of? We have a special someone coming to the Columbus Public Library that is just absolutely fascinating. "Who?" you ask. New York Times bestselling Nebraska author Tosca Lee! This woman even has her own Wikipedia page! How amazing is that? Let me share a little about Tosca, and you will see what an interesting life she has already led.

Tosca Lee was born in Virginia to a Korean father and a Euro-American mother. Her father, a Professor Emeritus, named Tosca after his favorite Puccini Opera. He helped Tosca follow her dreams of becoming a classical ballerina and a pianist. Sadly, she was injured to a degree that she was not able to continue her training. She went on to college to earn her bachelor's in English language and literature. While attending college, Tosca Lee wrote her first novel, and that whet her appetite for the power of the written word.

She began writing professionally in 1992 and learned the ins and outs of submissions and publishing. Then in 1996, Tosca Lee won the pageant title Mrs. Nebraska America and in 1998, Mrs. Nebraska United States. She even made it as far as the first runner-up to Mrs. United States! Governor Ben Nelson presented her with the admiralship of the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska for her extensive philanthropic work.

Setting the pageant world aside, she worked for the Gallup Organization as a senior consultant to Fortune 500 companies. During this time, she wrote her book Demon: A Memoir. She went through six years of rejection before it was finally published. After being published, it immediately earned critical acclaim, including a Christy Award nomination. She went on to publish, Havah: The Story of Eve, then joined writing forces with Ted Dekker and published the three titles in the Books of Mortals series.

In 2013 and 2014, more books based on biblical characters, Iscariot and The Legend of Sheba: Rise of a Queen, were released. In 2015, Tosca went a new direction and published adult thrillers full of supernatural suspense. She based the Progeny series of novels on the research of the life of Countess Elizabeth Bathory. A scary woman that lived in the late 1500s, Countess Bathory is credited with being the most prolific female murderer of all time. She probably inspired horror stories of vampires with all her blood lust. There is much speculation about the accuracy of the history behind Countess Bathory and her accused crimes. It's the perfect situation for a fiction author to come in and fill in the blanks. Tosca Lee created a fictional series on the descendants of this malignant character. To her shock, she discovered she could possibly be a descendant of Countess Bathory herself! CW Network of Deadline Hollywood purchased this series, and they are in the process of making her story into a movie.

Before COVID-19 was even a blip on the radar, Tosca Lee published an apocalyptic thriller, The Line Between. The book is an amazing edge-of-your-seat thriller that follows the life of a young woman that escapes a cult to survive a worldwide pandemic! A must-read after what we have lived through. The second book in the series, A Single Light, is already out. This series is also being developed for TV.

Are you in awe yet? Don't worry about meeting Tosca Lee. She is the kindest, most personable lady that you could ever meet. She married her Nebraska farmer Bryan in 2016 and became the instant mother to four stepchildren. Mark your calendars for September 4, Saturday at 2 pm, to come meet this incredible woman and purchase a signed book while you have the opportunity.