

Interview with Dana Drucker-Solano



Miss Undefinable

Apricot Brown looks a lot like you - did you ever dream to be like her?

DDS: Yes absolutely. As a young girl I thought I didn't fit in anywhere, but the truth is I fit in everywhere with everyone.

Who is Apricot Brown and why do you call her Miss Undefinable?

DDS: Apricot Brown is a fearless, open-hearted, global girl about-town—everywhere and everyone we can be! I call her Miss Undefinable because she's ever-changing and chooses not to define herself by one type of ethnic group, culture, or style, allowing herself the freedom and opportunity to mix things up. She embodies the mindset of today's generation, whose tastes and preferences cover the spectrum, just like she does.

Could you tell us a little more about yourself and how you came up with the idea of creating your book?

DDS: I grew up in a multi-ethnic and inter-religious home. As I discovered my heritage, which spans a good portion of the globe, I began to see a bit of myself in everyone, because in a roundabout way, everyone's my kin. The epiphany for Apricot Brown hit me when I discovered that no one had created a role model for girls like me, the undefinables: Girls who are black, white and everything in between, who transcend norms and create new realities.

What kind of adventures does Apricot Brown experience?

DDS: Apricot Brown's adventures are those of an outsider, who's got all the in's. Her open mind and heart lead her into uncharted territories, subcultures and worlds most people don't even know exist. Every experience brings a unique transformation, and is designed to encourage an organic approach to identity, empowering girls and boys to express the multidimensional range within them. Most of the adventures are inspired from my experiences growing up. I was into everything, and never settled into a clique. I changed schools often and traveled in many social circles.

What do you remember from your first day at high school?

DDS: I used the exact moment from my first day of high school in the book. I left public elementary school to go to a private middle school and then switched back to public school. My high school was fairly large about two thousand students. When I walked into the courtyard everyone I knew from elementary school acted like they didn't know each other. They were all in a different cliques. I remember them staring at me and hearing them think, "I wonder who she's going to pick?" I didn't have the hootspa of Apricot Brown back then, so I froze up and ran over to my neighbor so I didn't have to pick a clique.

So, like most people, it took you a while to find your independent spirit and truly love yourself?

DDS: I've always been a free spirit inside, but it took a while to build up the courage to live freely. I thought by constantly changing into what others wanted me to be, would make everyone accept me and in turn I could accept my selves. That was exhausting. Today, I'm just like Apricot Brown. Free to just be, celebrating life and in all its diversity!

Interviewee: Claudia Bodin